

RICK STEINER: "I KEEP HOPING IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM"

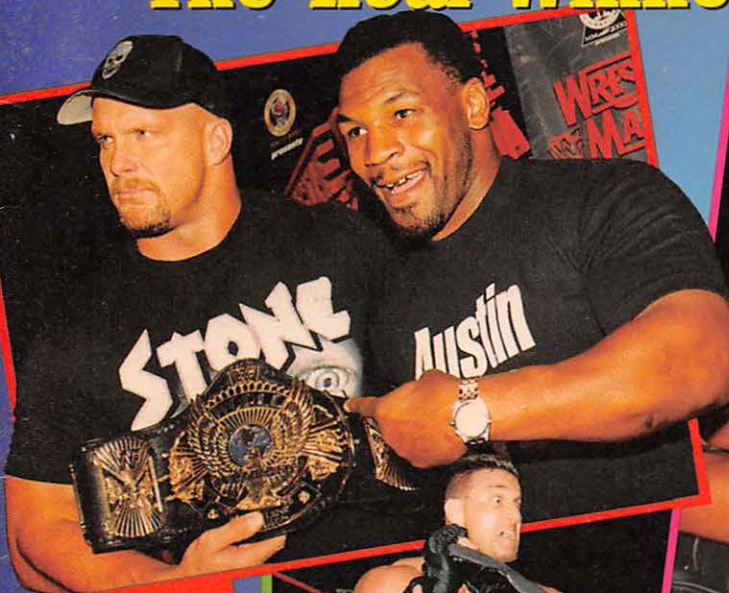


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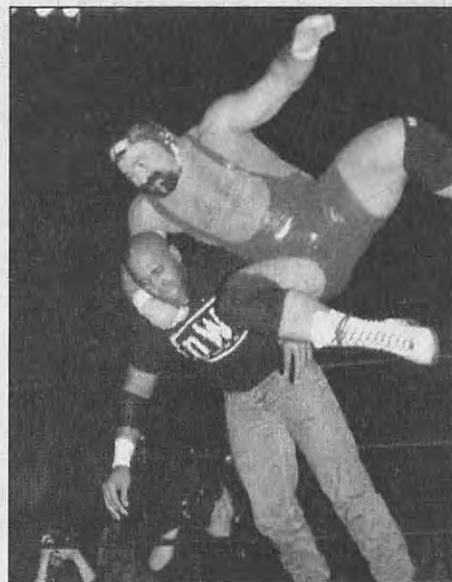
AUGUST 1998

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Let's hope he defends it regularly in the WWF

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KADEN

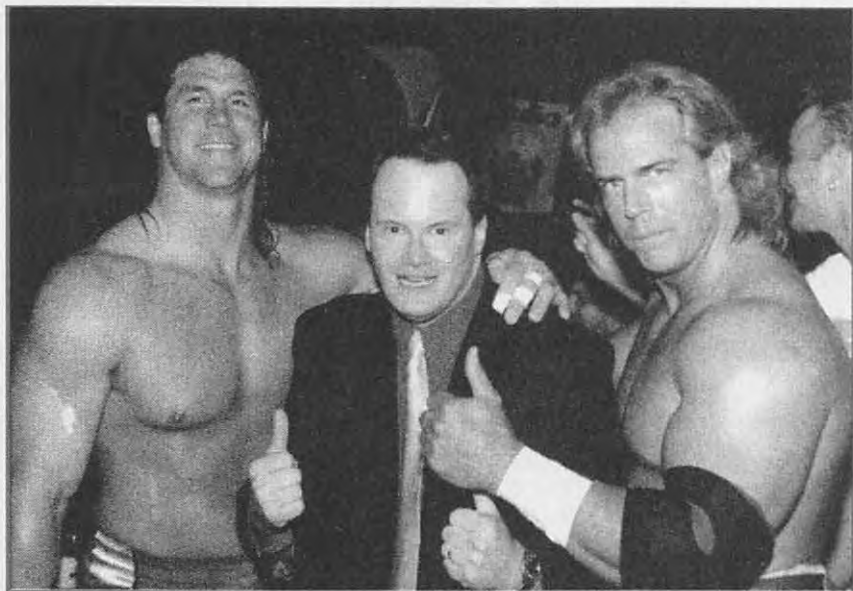
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## THUMBS UP TO JIM

I would like to give my own thumbs up to Jim Cornette for trying to return wrestling to wrestling.

Men Like Wilbur Snyder, Pat O'Connor, and Lou Thesz were real wrestlers, not the clowns,



NWA tag team champs The New Midnight Express, along with manager Jim Cornette, give the thumbs up salute after winning the belts from The Headbangers. Reader Leon Barfield appreciates Cornette's influence in the WWF.

comic book characters, freaks, and acrobats we see today. Very few of today's wrestlers, except for Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko, know a headlock from a hammerlock.

LEON BARFIELD  
Atlanta, GA

## NEVER SURRENDER

I don't think Konnan had any right to back down from Juventud

Guerrera and have Scott Norton wrestle him, especially after Konnan made the challenge on *WCW Monday Nitro*.

Not only did K-Dog cower, but he lied by saying that Juvi's opponent was the same height and weight and wrestled in the same style. I am glad that Juventud was not intimidated by the bigger, stronger, and tougher Norton, even though he lost the match.

Konnan then showed how little class he has by insulting Juvi's mother. Actually, Juventud has become more aggressive since losing the mask. I will always have nothing but respect for Juventud Guerrero, no matter what happens to him.

CASSIE SIMMONS  
Lancaster, OH

## WHERE IS BRET?

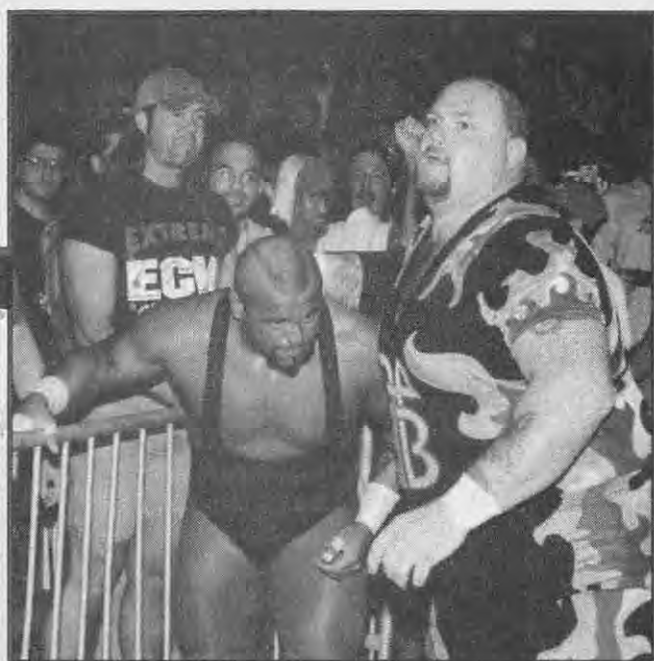
I am a long-time fan of Bret Hart, and I am distraught over not seeing him wrestle on a regular basis in WCW.

It is not fair to his loyal fans that we only get to see him once in a while on pay-per-view events. Mr. Hart boo-hoed when WWF fans turned against him and when Vince McMahon stabbed him in



Bret Hart hasn't wrestled that often since he signed with WCW. Some diehard "Hitman" fans, like D. Rooker, feel cheated by Hart's light schedule.





Taz and Bam Bam Bigelow embody the style of wrestling that ECW fans love, but reader J. Grosever wants to know how much longer he can expect "extreme" effort from these two now that they're no longer champions.

the back, but he is "screwing over" his tried-and-true fans who have remained loyal to him throughout the years without ever giving up on him.

I wish he would take the time to wrestle just to let his fans know that he is the best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be. What ever happened to the fighting spirit we saw in the WWF? Has WCW turned the "Hitman" soft?

D. ROOKER  
Lansdale, PA

#### GIVE IT UP

Let's give Lex Luger credit for being consistent. After all these years, he is still a blowhard who hasn't won squat!

BILL DIXON  
Sarasota Springs, FL

#### HOPELESSLY DEVOTED?

I am curious to see how loyal Taz and Bam Bam Bigelow remain to ECW now that the beloved TV title is out of their hands.

Taz has shown that he is a tireless worker and a valiant champion, but can he remain focused

few weeks. I think Taz and Bigelow should leave ECW; their time has come and gone.

J. GROSEVER  
Baltimore, MD

#### "BEAST" IS BEST

As far as I'm concerned, the WWF can keep Ken Shamrock and Mike Tyson. Shamrock calls himself "the world's most dangerous man," and Vince McMahon calls Mike Tyson "the baddest man on the planet," but anybody with an ounce of intelligence knows that the baddest man in professional wrestling is Dan "The Beast" Severn.

Severn has held many amateur titles and is a former UFC champion. He doesn't need to act crazy or bite anybody's ears to beat them up. He commands instant respect the moment he steps between the ropes. I hope Severn and Shamrock face each other very soon so "The Beast" can show him what a real fighting champion looks like.

REBECCA TIGHE  
San Pedro, CA  
(Continued on page 52)

when he is not in the championship picture? Let's see how he likes ECW while looking at things from the bottom up. I am sure he will fight back into contention somehow, but let's see if the big bucks are harder to resist now that he no longer calls the shots.

As for Bigelow, what good is he to The Triple Threat without a belt? At this point he is just a lot of dead weight. Once again, "The Beast From The East" has shown he can't hold on to a belt for more than a

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# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

A lot of people ask me if pro wrestlers are different on a one-to-one basis than they are when the camera is on them and there's a microphone in their face. The answer is yes ... and no. Most the so-called good guys in this sport have their moments when they can be downright nasty, and a lot of the quote-unquote bad guys can be rather human in the right atmosphere.

That being said, the following list (which also includes one manager and one broadcaster) should be considered to be a broad characterization and not to be misconstrued as being true 100 percent of the time.

Nicest Wrestler: Rey Misterio Jr.

Meanest Wrestler: Billy Gunn

Most Aloof Wrestler: Kevin Nash

Funniest Wrestler: Al Snow

Most Uplifting Wrestler: Jerry Lawler

Most Depressing Wrestler: Raven

Most Intellectual Wrestler: Bob Backlund

Most Intellectually Challenged Wrestlers: Mark/Troy Mest

Biggest Prankster: Marty Jannetty

Most Conceited Wrestler: Lex Luger

Most Humble Wrestler: Bill Goldberg

Most Neurotic Wrestler: Dallas Page

Most Intimidating Wrestler: Randy Savage

Most Accommodating Wrestler: Ultimo Dragon

Least Accommodating Wrestler: Shawn Michaels

Most Intense Wrestler: Perry Saturn

Most Laid-Back Wrestler: Curt Hennig

Most Obnoxious Wrestler: Eddy Guerrero

Most Generous Wrestler: Roddy Piper

Most Sentimental Wrestler: Cactus Jack

Most Jealous Wrestler: Rocky Maivia

Flakiest Wrestler: Brian Christopher



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# NAMES MA

**I**T TOOK **VINCE McMAHON** stepping into the ring against WWF World champ **Steve Austin** for the WWF's *Raw Is War* to finally beat *WCW Monday Nitro* head-to-head in the ratings (4.6 to 4.3 on April 13). It was the first time since June 10, 1996—when *Raw* won, 2.7 to 2.6—that the WWF accomplished that feat.



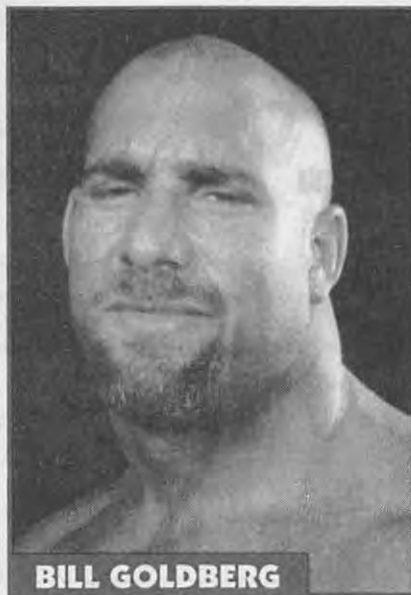
**VINCE McMAHON**

Unfortunately for the WWF, *Nitro* was right back on top the following week, posting a 5.1 compared to *Raw*'s 4.4. Incredibly enough, *Nitro*'s last quarter hour that night drew a record 6.5 for the match in which **Hollywood Hogan** defeated **Randy Savage** for the WCW World title.

Speaking of record numbers, the Tokyo Dome set a few records on April 4, the date of **Antonio Inoki**'s retirement match, as a record 70,000 fans paid nearly \$7-million and bought \$2.6-million in merchandise ... Just before press time, WCW filed a \$2-million lawsuit against **Ric Flair**. According to a

story in the *Charlotte Observer*, the suit charges Flair with breaking the three-year, \$1.95-million deal he signed in November 1997 by missing a series of scheduled dates. I contacted Flair for comment, and all he would say was, "I hope we all can walk away from this with our heads held high."

On a side note, Flair was at Michigan's Pontiac Silverdome on April 11 to watch his son **Reed** win the national AAU 112-pound "mid-get" division wrestling title. Reed won local and state qualifying tournaments to get to the national finals. Let's all give Reed a big "Whooooooo!" for his great accomplishment.



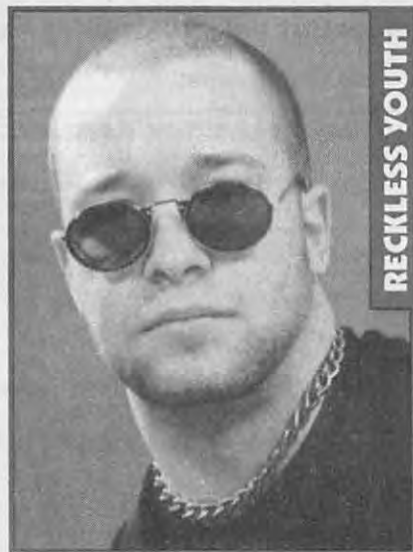
**BILL GOLDBERG**

WCW U.S. heavyweight champion **Bill Goldberg** is going out of his way to get both attention and respect from **Hollywood Hogan**. Goldberg paces outside Hogan's dressing room whenever they are in the same arena, waits for Hogan to emerge, then gives him that icy stare for which he has become

famous. Hogan has asked the head of WCW security, **Doug Dellinger**, to stop Goldberg from doing this, but Dellinger says he cannot do anything because Goldberg is not breaking any rules. Regarding talk that Hogan has tried to recruit Goldberg as an ally, Hollywood says, "What do I need him for when I got **The Disciple** looking out for me? This Goldberg guy hangs outside my dressing room waiting for me to sign his little autograph book. He's becoming an annoyance, and I wish he'd stay the hell away from me!"

**Terry Funk** said the bloody war he had in the past with **Cactus Jack**, who was his tag team partner only a few months ago, is about to be reborn. "Cactus Jack, **Dude Love**, **Mankind**, **Mick Foley**, they're all the same—a bunch of egg-suckin' cowards. I can't wait to get my hands on him ... or them!"

East Coast independent star **Reckless Youth** was recently spotted in a WWF locker room chatting with members of **De-Generation X** ... **Sable**'s left foot



**RECKLESS YOUTH**

# KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

was broken in three places during a melee with **Luna** in April. But this time it wasn't Luna who did the damage. Instead, Sable's injury occurred when referee **Tim White** lost his balance during the scrum and fell on Sable's foot ... **The Bushwhackers** recently appeared on an ECW card in Florida and were announced as **Butch** and **Luke Dudley**. Said **Buh Buh Ray Dudley**: "They're a welcome addition to our family. They'd be a welcome addition to anyone's family."

Congratulations to the legendary **Lou Thesz**, who celebrated his 82nd birthday on April 24 ... Former WCW broadcaster **Chris Cruise** has become a manager, and he's signed both **The Iron Sheik** and **Kamala II**. The evil trio is feuding with New Dimension Wrestling brass knuckles champion **Rick Link** ... **Lady Victoria**, a manager and wrestler in Mexico's Promo Azteca, warns WCW wrestlers to beware of the man she



**DIABLO & VICTORIA**

hopes to bring there soon, **El Hijo del Diablo**. "He will make you forget all about **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Juventud Guerrera**. He is the finest athlete in all of Mexico, and how lucky he is to have me guiding his career."

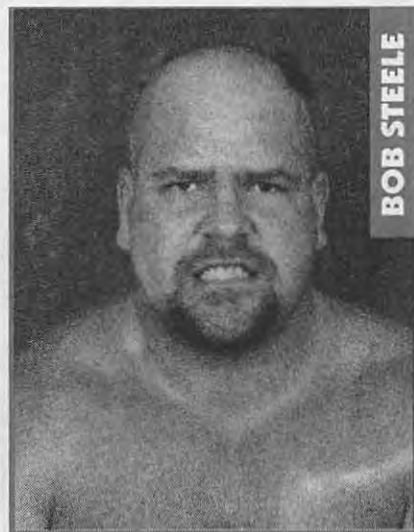


**SGT. CRAIG PITTMAN**

Former WCW wrestler **Sgt. Craig Pittman** is negotiating with the WWF ... Both members of New Breed Wrestling's **Pittsburgh Steel Team** are now singles champions. **Rodney Allen** defeated **H.C. Loc** to win the light heavyweight title, while **John Diamond** downed **Tony DeVito** to take the NBW TV title ... **Terry Landell** has been assigned to a commissioner's post for Tennessee Mountain Wrestling.

Former USWA broadcaster **Stacey Carter**, who happens to be **Jerry Lawler's** girlfriend, is getting very involved in Lawler's battles. She recently teamed with him for a mixed tag match, then attacked Lawler's old rival **Bill Dundee** on a televised edition of Memphis' **Power Pro Wrestling** ... **Black Diamond** and **Man of Thunder** won the Pro Wrestling Federation

tag team belts from **George South** and **Italian Stallion** after South turned against Stallion.



**BOB STEELE**

Former Grande Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion **Bob Steele** has been unable to secure a title shot against the man who won the title from him, **George "The Animal" Steele**. "The commissioners told me that to get a shot at him I have to beat at least 10 opponents, even though I'm the former champion," Bob says. "These Grande rules stink!" ... Although you haven't see him in quite some time, **Mortis** might actually be the fan sitting next to you at WCW matches. "Mortis is under reconstruction," says **James Vandenberg**, the masked man's manager. "He's at every WCW card as a paying customer because he wants to scout opponents. I will probably bring him back in a few months, without the mask, and we will rule WCW like no one else has—including the NWO!"

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches!



**T**HE LONG RELATIONSHIP between Randy Savage and Elizabeth has taken many twists and turns and gone down many roads, and anybody who has followed this pair for the past 12 years knows that there has never been any telling where they might go next. From a strict manager-wrestler relationship, to boyfriend-girlfriend, to estrangement, to engagement and marriage, to divorce, to a strict manager-wrestler relationship, Randy and Liz have gone full circle. And yet they're still together.

There has never been anything like it in wrestling, perhaps in the history of personal relationships.

# ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

They have somehow found ways to work, love, and work together, despite their differences, despite their obvious problems. Divorce tore them apart, but it obviously didn't destroy the respect they have for each other. Perhaps Elizabeth sees Savage as her meal ticket. Perhaps Savage sees Elizabeth as the one supporter he can't do without. Whatever. They go on.

Recently, I had an interesting view of the Savage-Elizabeth relationship. It opened my eyes and made me rethink the way I have viewed them

over the past few years. The incidents happened over a period of one week.

On March 31 in Madison, Wisconsin, Savage suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during a melee with Sting. There was speculation he would be out of action for six months or more. I wasn't there for the Madison match. But I was at Miami Arena on April 6, when Savage was the victim of a heinous parking lot attack by a mysterious man in a little red car.

Maybe not so mysterious. According to Kevin Nash, the man in the little red car was Hollywood Hogan.

But that's not the point of this column. Savage suffered severe injuries in the attack. The torn ACL was aggravated. Savage also suffered an injured neck and shoulder and had to be immobilized for the ambulance ride to the hospital. It was scary watching Savage placed on the stretcher and into a device that kept his head from moving. Elizabeth, watching from inches away, couldn't control her tears.

I watched this scene from about 25 feet away and kept wondering, *Why? Why is Elizabeth so upset? Why has she been moved to tears?*

Elizabeth rode with Savage in the ambulance to the hospital. Because reporters aren't permitted in ambulances, I followed behind them to the nearby hospital. Savage was removed from the ambulance and rushed into emergency. When I arrived, Elizabeth was sitting in the waiting room, dabbing at her eyes with tissues that were already soaked with tears and nervously shaking her legs. She saw me and didn't say a word.

Every five minutes or so, Elizabeth would get up, walk over to the receptionist, and ask if there was any word on Savage. Each time, the

*(Continued on page 54)*



Miss Elizabeth poses with her friend and former husband, Randy Savage, before a match. What is it that keeps these two together after all these years?

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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HIS IS VERY quickly turning into an "I Hate Hulk Hogan" column.

Okay, so this has been an "I Hate Hulk Hogan" column for years. Ever since it started, in fact.

But my aim is clear: I deeply disrespect Hulk Hogan and I want you to disrespect him, too.

Fortunately for those of us in the Hogan disrespect camp, the "Huckster" keeps on coming up with new reasons for us to dislike him.

After Randy Savage tore his ACL (Note to readers: ACL is not the name of a new federation or WCW clique) at a *WCW Saturday Night* taping, Hogan predictably checked in with his opinion that he should get Savage's title shot against Sting at Spring Stampede.

"The 'Macho Man' never earned that title match," Hogan said. "I had that coward Sting beat like a dog at SuperBrawl, but then 'Macho' came out and stuck his nose in my business, where it doesn't belong. I'll take his title shot, because it shoulda been mine in the first place."

Thanks for your unsolicited opinion, Hulk. You might remember that last month in this space, I reported on Hogan's demand that Scott Hall give him the WCW World heavyweight belt if he were

to win it at SuperBrawl VIII (he didn't win it). So twice in two months, Hogan has made ridiculous demands.

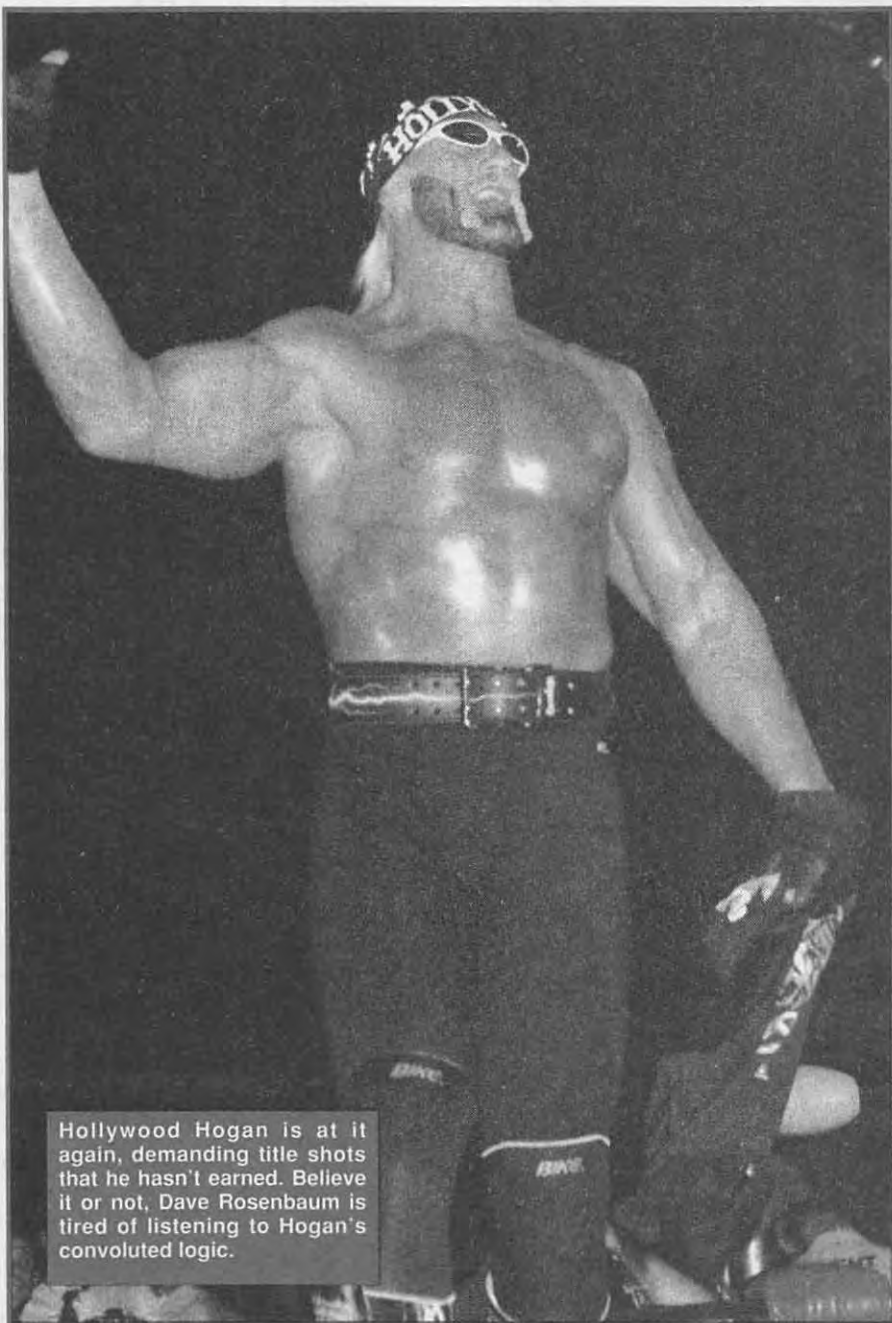
This, of course, is perfectly typical Hogan behavior. The man who calls himself Hollywood Hogan, even though every single one of his movie and TV appearances have been an embarrassment to the Hollywood movie establishment, never fails to amaze with his egocentrism. I mean, this guy is too much. Can you believe he was once a fan favorite? Can you

believe he was once the most popular wrestler in history?

Hey, I can. The thing is, Hogan hasn't changed at all. Not a bit. He's the same Hogan he used to be. These days, he just doesn't bother hiding his bad side.

What was that? What did I just say? How could Hogan ever hide his bad side? It's too big! For some reason, fans used to love Hogan's bad side. They didn't mind that he was constantly begging for attention and ripping them

(Continued on page 55)



Hollywood Hogan is at it again, demanding title shots that he hasn't earned. Believe it or not, Dave Rosenbaum is tired of listening to Hogan's convoluted logic.

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The voice of ECW is ...?

- 1) Joey Styles
- 2) Paul E. Dangerously
- 3) Tommy Dreamer
- 4) Bill Alfonso

Lex Luger is also known as ...?

- 1) Totally Awesome
- 2) The Six Pack
- 3) The Total Package
- 4) None of the above

True or False: The Giant competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics as a member of the Austrian basketball team?

- 1) True 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with ...?

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sgt. Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

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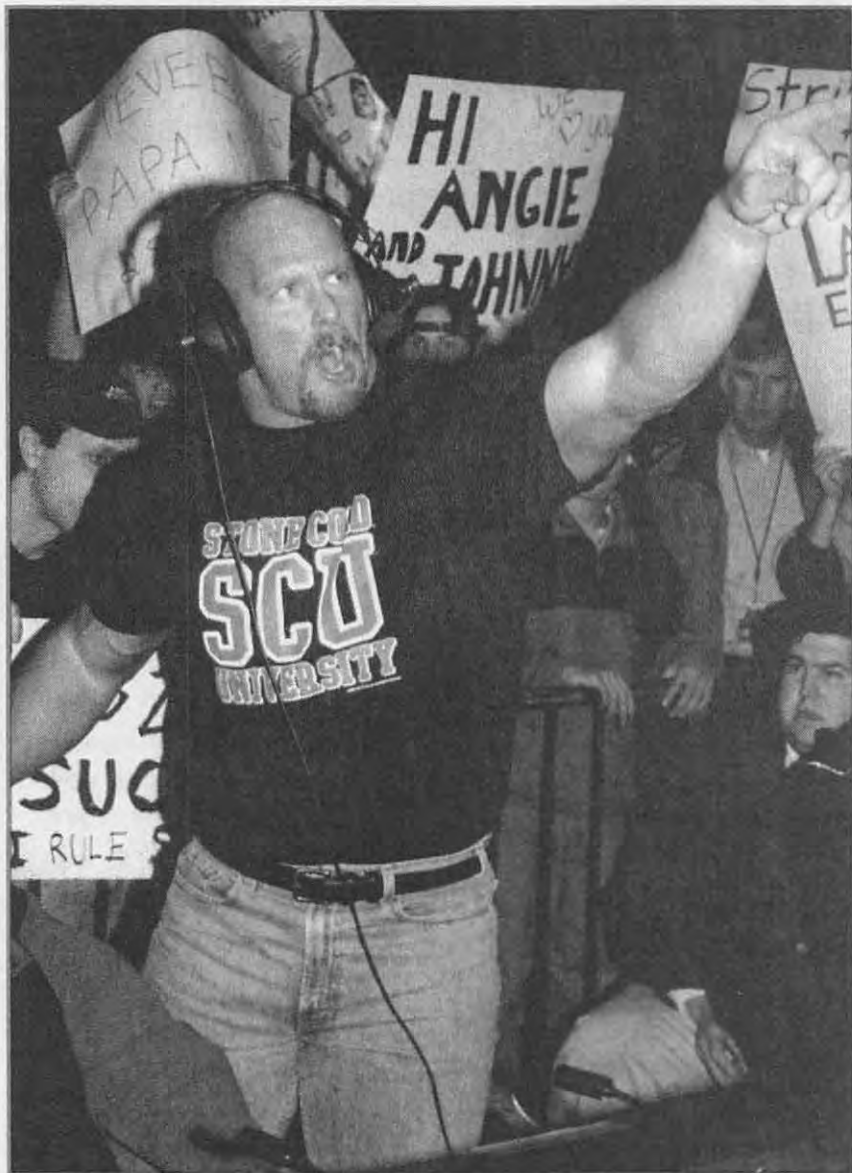


# the Insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

*(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)*

FOR NEARLY TWO years now, the fad of cheering rule-breakers has been becoming a way of life in professional wrestling. At first, I saw it as a boon for the evil set and its proponents.



Ever notice that every time Steve Austin appears on WWF TV, he's wearing the kind of T-shirt that fans can pick up at a nearby souvenir stand? This man does not have the heart of a true rulebreaker beating inside his chest.

The NWO became popular because of this, and just last year, we witnessed the rebirth of my favorite magazine, *Wrestling Bad Guys* (albeit as only the magazine-within-*Wrestle America*).

But what I first saw as a boon, I now see as a bust. Allow me to get upon my soapbox and announce to every wrestling fan who cheers on his or her favorite bad guys. Allow the "Queen" to impart to you some advice:

Stop.

Now.

What you, the fans, are doing is ruining rulebreaking. By rooting on the black-hatted set, you are poisoning the poisonous well of evil, destroying the very foundation upon which wrestling was built. Cheer the hero. Boo the bad guy. At first, I reveled in the sheer novelty of hearing someone like Kevin Nash get cheered louder and louder as his acts became more heinous. Now I am starting to see the error in the fans' ways.

If you think these cheers are harmless, you are dead wrong. There have been many casualties. Fine, upstanding rulebreakers who have fallen by the wayside. I call it character un-assassination.

Steve Austin was once a no-nonsense, no-frills, butt-kickin', foul-mouthed rulebreaker. Everyone—and I mean everyone—would have preferred to slap his face as opposed to shaking his hand. Fans reigned jeers down upon him and he looked upon them with equal disdain. But the minute he coined his famous "Austin 3:16," everything changed for the worse.

Now Austin flies in the face of authority with the fans behind him. He knows it, too. That is what fuels his belligerence and precisely what makes his so-called devotion to rulebreaking insincere. He will flip you off, but don't forget to pick up his T-shirt on your way out of the building.

Bill Goldberg is the latest and

*(Continued on page 56)*

# WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

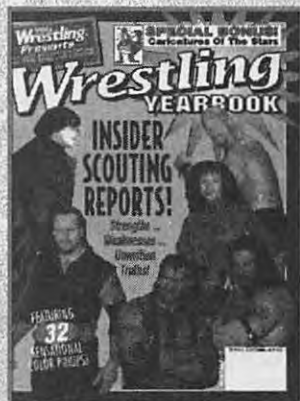
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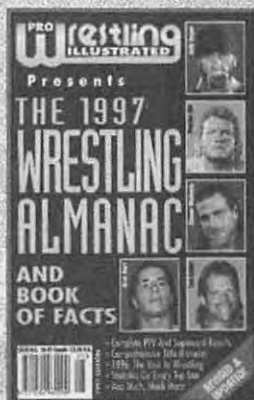
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# ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

ON THE COVER of the November 1997 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Senior Writer/Cartoonist Steve Anderson used his artistic skills to depict Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff attempting to strangle each other. If that cartoon were real life (and sometimes I wonder), I think most fans would be rooting for both men to close up the other's windpipe permanently.

Who would have thought? The Big Two are effectively being run by two rulebreakers. Bischoff is the head honcho of WCW, while he also works his night job of running the renegade New World Order. Not to be outdone, McMahon is taking an edgier approach to federation administration. Now promotion heads are usually not the most popular people in the sport, but this is getting ridiculous.

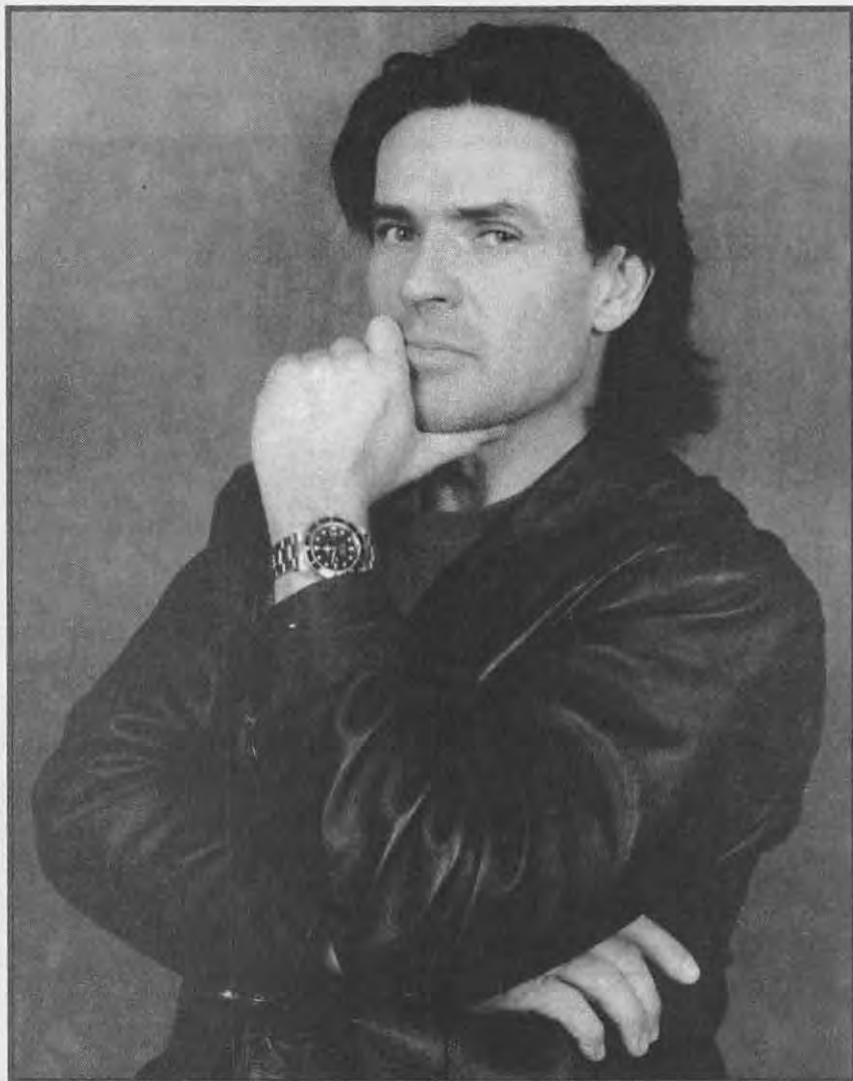
Sadly, I've grown accustomed to Bischoff's antics, as has WCW. He's the rebellious young executive trying to show what a visionary he is. WCW puts up with it because, frankly, the NWO presence equals good TV ratings. When Hogan, Nash, Hall, or any other member (okay, maybe not Vincent) of the NWO makes an appearance on TV, Nielsen families take notice.

But I expected better out of McMahon. He is the chief cook and bottle washer who answers to nobody. He owns the place and signs the checks. His actions as of late have left me baffled as to his true motivations. The question I have asked myself is this: Can the owner of the WWF turn bad?

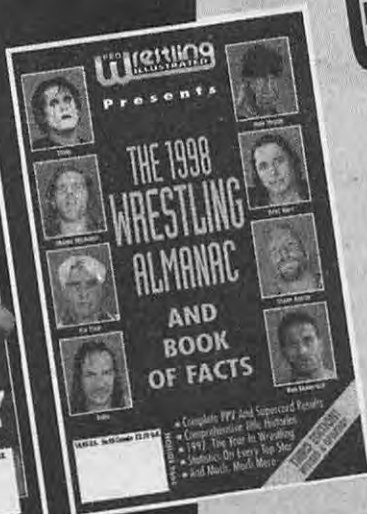
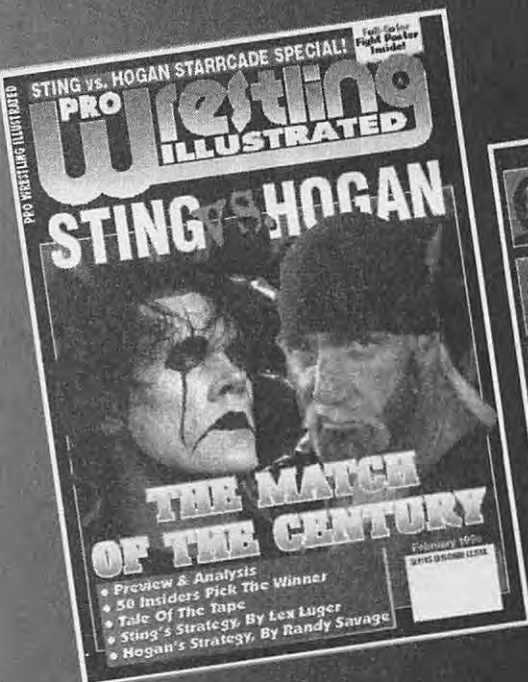
Vince's new attitude became evident when he decided that he no longer wanted Bret Hart to be the WWF World champion. All the goodwill Vince built up over the years after the controversies over steroid trials and sexual abuse was gone when he took the title away from Bret at Survivor Series '97. Bret Hart became a folk hero by laying out Vince with one punch to the jaw afterward. Most fans took the "Hitman's" side. Vince tried to put a more positive spin on it when Jim Ross interviewed him.

When employee Ross asked his boss if he "screwed" Hart, Vince insisted that "Bret screwed Bret." Whether he was right or wrong, he gave a simplistic answer to a complicated question. Fans became even more indignant toward the WWF head. Mind you, McMahon has never brought down the house when he entered a WWF arena, but suddenly he was hearing the boos that were once reserved for savage rulebreakers.

(Continued on page 57)



Eric Bischoff is still the president of WCW, but he's also the very cocky leader of the NWO, and most fans hate him because of that. He seems to thrive on the boos he hears.



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# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>269</sup>

## THE GIANT

**W**HEN YOU STAND 7'4" and weigh 430 pounds, you get noticed. And The Giant has been getting noticed

ever since he made his WCW debut in 1995 as a member of Kevin Sullivan's Dungeon of Doom (*"Now I know Sullivan is pure evil"*) ... Hulk Hogan certainly noticed The Giant after he

drove a truck over Hogan's beloved Harley-Davidson in the parking lot of the Asheville Civic Center ... Also used his dreaded choke-slam to get Hogan's attention at Fall Brawl in 1995 ... Battled Hogan, who was then a fan favorite, for the WCW World title in his in-ring debut a month later at Halloween Havoc, winning by disqualification ... Lost to him in a steel cage match at SuperBrawl VI (*"Hogan is one of the few people I truly hate"*) ...

Teamed with Ric Flair on several occasions to defeat Lex Luger and Sting, as well as Hogan and Randy Savage ... Demanded a title match from WCW World champ Flair after the "Nature Boy" accidentally threw coffee in his face during a tag team match on *Nitro* on April 22, 1996 ... Cleanly defeated Flair for the belt later that

night with the choke-slam and thus became the first rookie to win a world championship (*"Not many rookies beat Ric Flair"*) ... The new champion racked up numer-

ous victories over Sting and Luger before dropping the belt to—guess who—Hollywood Hogan, on August 10, 1996 ... Everyone in WCW expected The Giant to lead the crusade against the embryonic New World Order, but he shocked

1996 and placed fourth in the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year voting ... Finished second (behind Shawn Michaels) in the "PWI 500" ... Was booted from the NWO after failing to help Hogan beat Roddy Piper at Starrcade '96 ...

Started teaming with Lex Luger, and they eventually beat Kevin Nash and Scott Hall for the WCW World tag team belts at SuperBrawl VII ... The NWO's Eric Bischoff, using his power as WCW executive vice president, ordered the belts returned to Hall and Nash (*"He and Hogan are the two biggest cowards I have ever known"*) ...

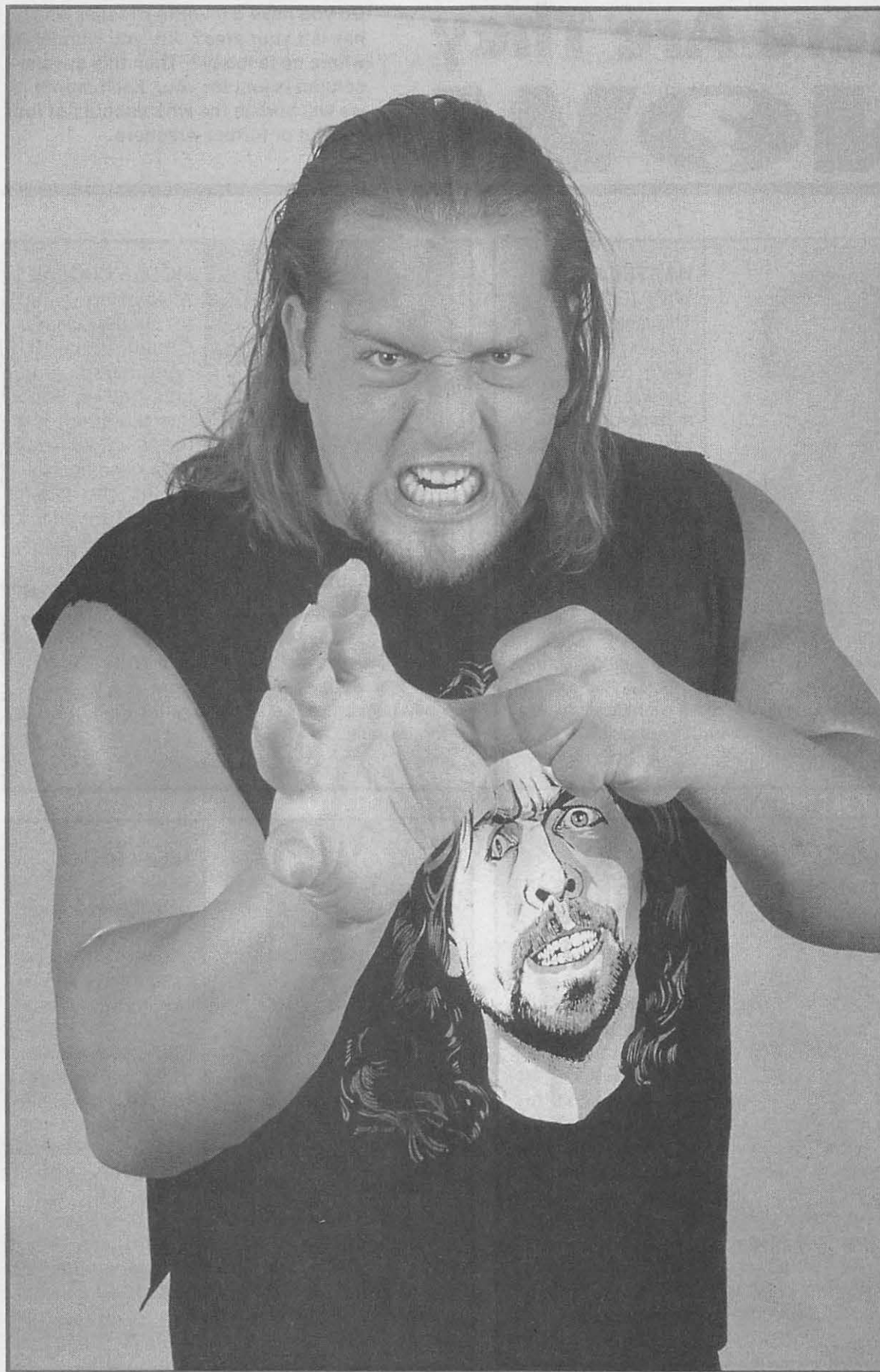
Eventually became the force WCW was hoping he would be and rededicated his career to purging WCW of the NWO, particularly Nash ... Has a running feud with Nash to determine who wrestling's "real giant" is ... Was seriously injured at Souled Out '98 when he landed squarely on his head when Nash power-bombed him ... Has since returned the favor to Nash by power-bombing him, even though the move is now banned in WCW (*"Hey, Nash, you woke up a sleeping giant"*) ... His choke-slam has come in handy when countering NWO run-ins and sneak-attacks ... Became one of WCW's most beloved competitors by joining men like

Roddy Piper, Bret Hart, Lex Luger, and Sting as WCW's strike force against Hogan and the NWO (*"We can't let that cancer spread any further"*). □



The Giant uses his choke-slam on a helpless El Dandy, one of the dozens of WCW wrestlers he has finished off with the move. He'd like to use it on the NWO's Kevin Nash if possible.

the wrestling world by joining the NWO a few weeks after losing to Hogan (*"I saw dollar signs"*) ... Garnered PWI's Rookie and Wrestler of the Year Awards for



# THE GIANT



# Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## HARVEY WIPPLEMAN

The lanky man also known as Downtown Bruno has done it all. He has managed dozens of wrestlers. He has been a referee. He has even been a wrestler (his most memorable feud was with WWF ring announcer Howard Finkel in 1995).

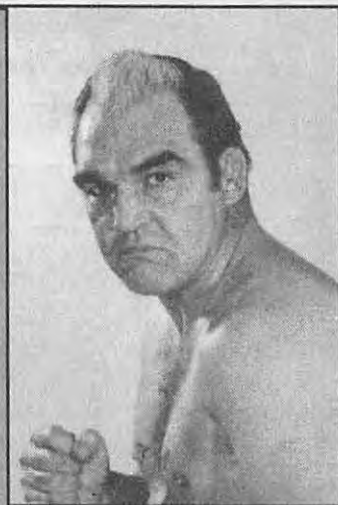
Now Wippleman has taken on yet another job—that of talent scout. "My job is not only to help find new talent for the WWF," he explained, "but to critique the young wrestlers after their matches, win or lose. I really love it!"



## MOOSE CHOLAK

After being retired for many years, Cholak recently announced that he's getting back into the sport, but not as a wrestler. "I have been appointed by the NWA Midwest promotion as one of three commissioners in the region," Moose told us. "I'll be

sharing the post with Angelo Poffo and Harley Race. I'm real proud of it." Said NWA Midwest promoter Buddy Sokolick: "Moose is a legend in the Midwest, and he's still tough enough to keep people in line!"



## SPUTNIK MONROE

Although Monroe's greatest accomplishments came in the mid-'60s and early-'70s, he is still involved in wrestling, managing his son Bubbah the Brawler. Sputnik claims to have originated the interview style you see so many stars use

today. "As a matter of fact, I coined the phrase 'I am 230 pounds of twisted steel and sex appeal,'" said Sputnik, now a "very young" 70. He and his wife, Joanne, live in suburban Houston, where he is employed as a security guard.



## MISTY BLUE SIMMES

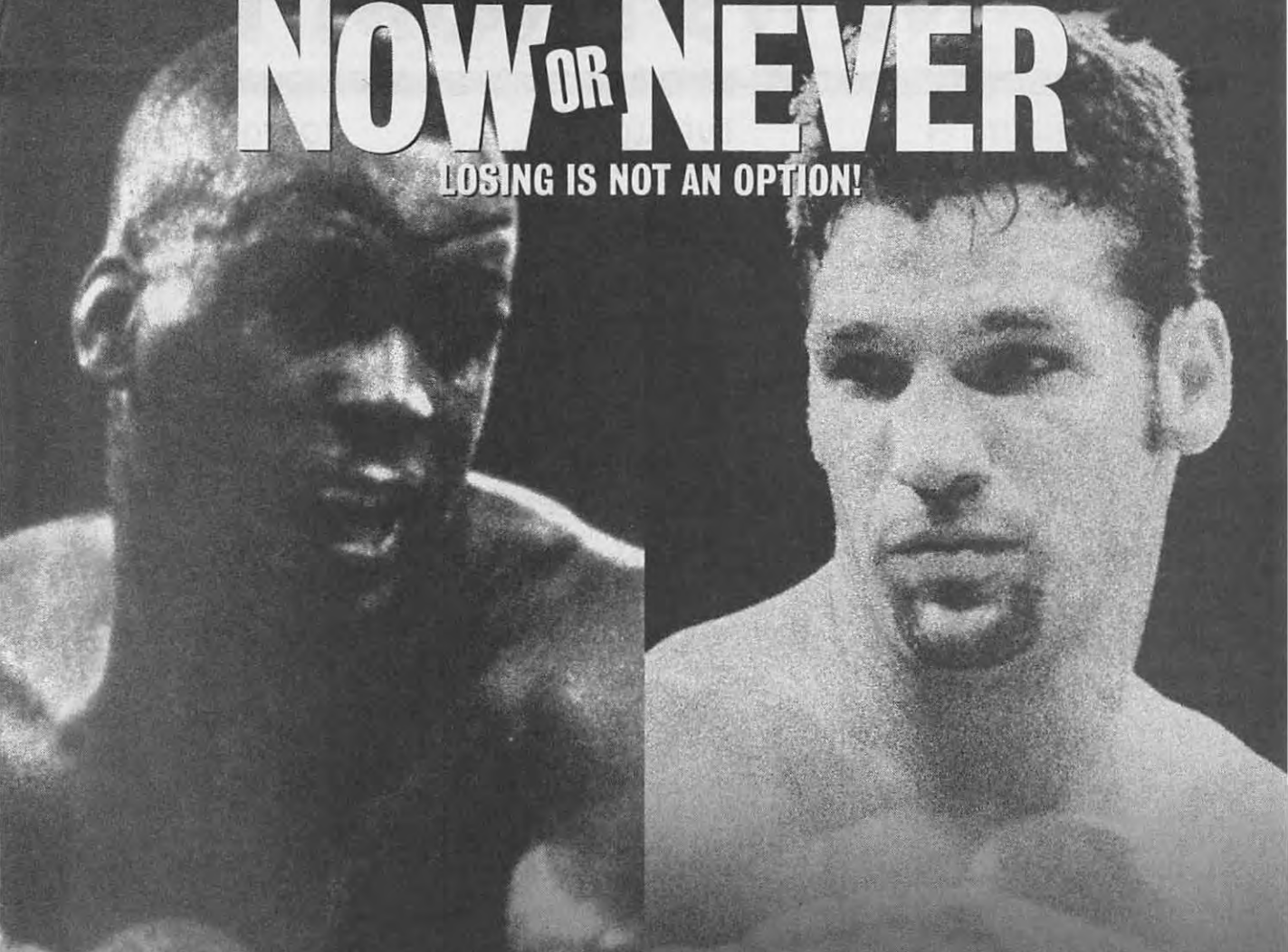
Simmes, who once held the NWA ladies title, still wrestles occasionally and is feuding with Nasty Sherri. Unfortunately, her sandblasting and industrial coating business, which is based in Glens Falls, New York, keeps her from

taking on a more active schedule. "I still get out there, mostly during the summer months," she said. Aside from that, she just returned from a Caribbean cruise. "I love travelling, and cruises are the way to go!" she added.

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# NEWS FROM THE

**TERRE HAUTE, IN  
BY DAVID MILLER**



**RICK STEINER  
VS.  
CURT HENNIG**



Rick Steiner was looking for revenge against the NWO in this match against Hennig. Just as Steiner started to gain the upper hand, though, Rick Rude attacked Steiner and thus got Hennig disqualified. Scott Norton and Brian Adams then joined the fray, which prompted Ray Traylor to come to Steiner's defense. The NWO had their prey outnumbered until Bill Goldberg entered the ring, crushing Norton and Adams with shoulder tackles. After chasing away the NWO contingent, Goldberg retreated to the dressing room, leaving Steiner confused but victorious.

**OTHER BOUTS:** WCW cruiserweight champ Chris Jericho beat Super Calo ... Kendall Windham beat El Dandy ... Perry Saturn beat La Parka ... Ray Traylor beat Barry Darsow ... Prince Iaukea beat Yuji Nagata ... Brian Adams beat Marty Jannetty ... Eddy Guerrero beat Psicosis ... Scott Norton beat Chris Benoit ... Bill Goldberg beat Wayne Bloom.

**BUFFALO, NY  
BY DAN MURPHY**



**ROB VAN DAM  
VS.  
BAM BAM BIGELOW**



Bigelow may outweigh Van Dam by more than 100 pounds, but Van Dam was able to use his aerial attack to fell the ECW TV champ and capture the title. Early on, Van Dam dove from the ring onto Bigelow, who was standing five rows into the crowd. Van Dam again went airborne, only this time he somersaulted onto Bam Bam. Later, Sabu interfered, jabbing Bigelow in the eye with a foreign object and allowing Van Dam to hit him with a top-rope splash and get the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Little Guido & Tracey Smothers beat The Blue Meanie & Super Nova ... Justin Credible beat Mikey Whipwreck ... Axl Rotten & Mahoney beat Doug Furnas & Bobby Duncum Jr. ... John Kronus & Spike Dudley beat Amish Roadkill & Danny Doring ... Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley beat The Sandman & 2 Cold Scorpio ... Sabu beat Jerry Lynn ... Al Snow beat Chris Candido ... Tommy Dreamer & Mikey Whipwreck beat Justin Credible & Jason in a falls-count-anywhere match.

**TOKYO, JAPAN  
BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA**



**ANTONIO INOKI  
VS.  
DON FRYE**



Inoki beat Frye by submission in the final match of his 38-year career. Frye, who had won an earlier tournament to get the honor of facing Inoki, had an early advantage over Inoki, but Inoki recovered and punched Frye in the face. Inoki clamped on his grand cobra twist and forced Frye to submit, much to the delight of the 70,000 in attendance.

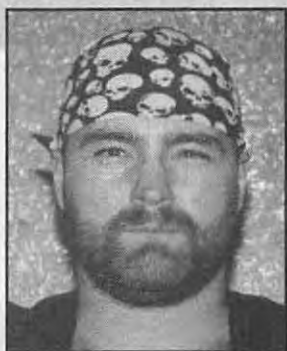
**OTHER BOUTS:** Naoya Ogawa beat Brian Johnston ... Don Frye beat Igor Meindert ... Frye beat Ogawa ... Manabu Nakanishi & Satoshi Kojima beat Hiro Saito & Hiroyoshi Tenzan ... Shiro Koshinaka, Tatsutoshi Goto, & Michiyoshi Ohara beat Tadao Yasuda, Kazuo Yamazaki, & Junji Hirata ... Tatsuhiro Takaiwa beat Koji Kanemoto ... Shinjiro Otani beat Yuji Yasuraoka ... IWGP junior heavyweight champ Jushin Liger beat Kendo Ka Shin ... IWGP tag team champs Masahiro Chono & Keiji Muto beat Shinya Hashimoto & Osamu Nishimura ... Tatsumi Fujinami beat IWGP heavyweight champ Kensuke Sasaki to win the title.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS

**WESTLAND, MI  
BY RICHARD DIX**



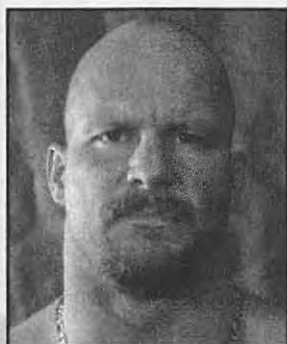
**TITO SANTANA  
VS.  
SKULL GANZ**



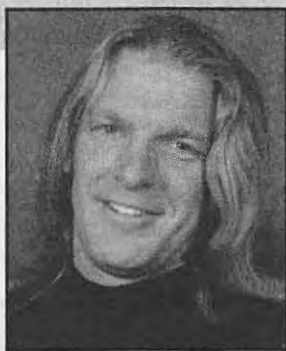
Ganz defeated Santana to capture the Northern States Wrestling Alliance title, but he needed help from *Santana's* second, Greg Valentine, to do so. In the beginning, Valentine clubbed Santana from behind and joined Ganz in stomping Santana before the referee chased Valentine from the ring. Tito rallied, though, and got Ganz in a figure-four. That's when Valentine slipped Ganz a pair of brass knuckles, which he used to nail Santana in the head. Once he did that, he had no trouble getting a three-count and becoming champion.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jimi V won a triangle match against Calavera Cortez and Larry Destiny to win the NSWA lightweight title ... The Cold Brothers won a four-team battle royal ... Madman Pondo & Ox Harley beat Theater of Pain ... The Bushwhackers beat The Wild Bunch ... Greg Valentine beat Brian Fury to win the Great Lakes TV title ... The East Coast Invasion beat Team NSWA in a cage match.

**OBERHAUSEN, GERMANY  
BY JOHN RITTEN**



**STEVE AUSTIN  
VS.  
HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**



Even though Austin beat Shawn Michaels for the WWF World belt at WrestleMania, his feud with DX is far from over. Now, it's Helmsley vying for the belt. Austin was in no mood for "Triple-H"'s stalling and tried for a "Stone-Cold stunner" early on, but Helmsley dodged it. They then started battling outside the ring, where Austin dumped Hunter over the ringside barrier onto the laps of ringside fans. Later, Chyna challenged Austin in the ring, getting herself "stunned" for her efforts. Helmsley tried to defend her, but he got "stunned" himself, which led to an Austin pinfall victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jeff Jarrett beat Brakus ... Owen Hart & Ken Shamrock defeated Rocky Maivia & D-Lo Brown ... Marc Mero pinned Bradshaw ... Kane pinned Cactus Jack ... The Road Warriors beat Henry & Phineas Godwinn ... The Undertaker beat Goldust ... WWF World tag team champs The New Age Outlaws beat Skull & Eight-Ball.

**MARTINSBURG, WV  
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER**



**BUDDY LANDELL  
VS.  
MASKED SUPERSTAR**



Landell tried everything he could think of in trying to beat Masked Superstar, but he still lost this Championship Pro Wrestling bout. Landell controlled most of the match. At one point, Superstar sent Landell crashing to the mat with a shoulder tackle. Just when it seemed Superstar would pin Landell, Landell's manager, Spike Callahan, passed a chain to Buddy, who used it to punch Superstar down for the pin. Commissioner Shane Shadows, however, restarted the match, and Superstar blasted Buddy with the chain and covered him for a three-count that was made by Shadows.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Major Mayhem won a battle royal ... Mohammed Kane beat Juggernaut ... Mark Mest beat The Cremator ... Major Mayhem beat CPW Southeastern champ Combat Kid for the title ... The Chain Gang & The Pit Fighter beat J.B. Blackburn, Nicky Pisghetti, and Scott Sawyer ... Switchblade beat Bob Keller by disqualification.





## Matt Brock's *Plain Speaking*

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

**R**ead the other day that Mike Tyson "soiled" his image by appearing at WrestleMania XIV and this reporter can't figure that one out. Here's a man who has been in nightclub brawls, been convicted of rape, and sent to jail, and now we're finding out that he just soiled his image by appearing at a wrestling card? Don't mean to further "soil"

the man's image—because that's not what this is about—but it seems to me that appearing at WrestleMania was the most honest, productive thing Tyson's done in a long time, and I include in that doing time, suing Don King, and biting off part of Evander Holyfield's ear. There was Tyson, being paid well into seven figures, if you believe the inside reports, appearing at ringside wearing a DeGeneration X T-shirt, and everybody in the world is convinced that he's going to help Shawn Michaels and ruin Steve Austin's night. Didn't happen that

way, of course. Tyson turned out to be an honest man, and Austin became champion. As for Vince McMahon Jr., there's a man who keeps soiling his image every time he opens his mouth. The old man wouldn't have been proud. McMahon tried kowtowing to Austin, but it didn't work. Now the WWF has a rebel champion, which might be what it needs after all. On my scorecard, WCW was second overall in the federation popularity race before a bunch of rebels called the NWO came along, and now the WWF has its rebel champion. Nothing like a squeaky-clean reputation to destroy a federation these days. Just ask ECW, which is growing by leaps and bounds. Now the WWF has Sunny and The Legion of Doom and some old geezer named Chainsaw Charlie who looks an awful lot like Terry Funk and drives a forklift like him as well. Jim Cornette's been banging around, too, and the other day he turned the cold shoulder on The Rock 'n' Roll Express. It's enough to make a wrestling historian wonder what year his time capsule ended up in.

**BOSTON, MA**



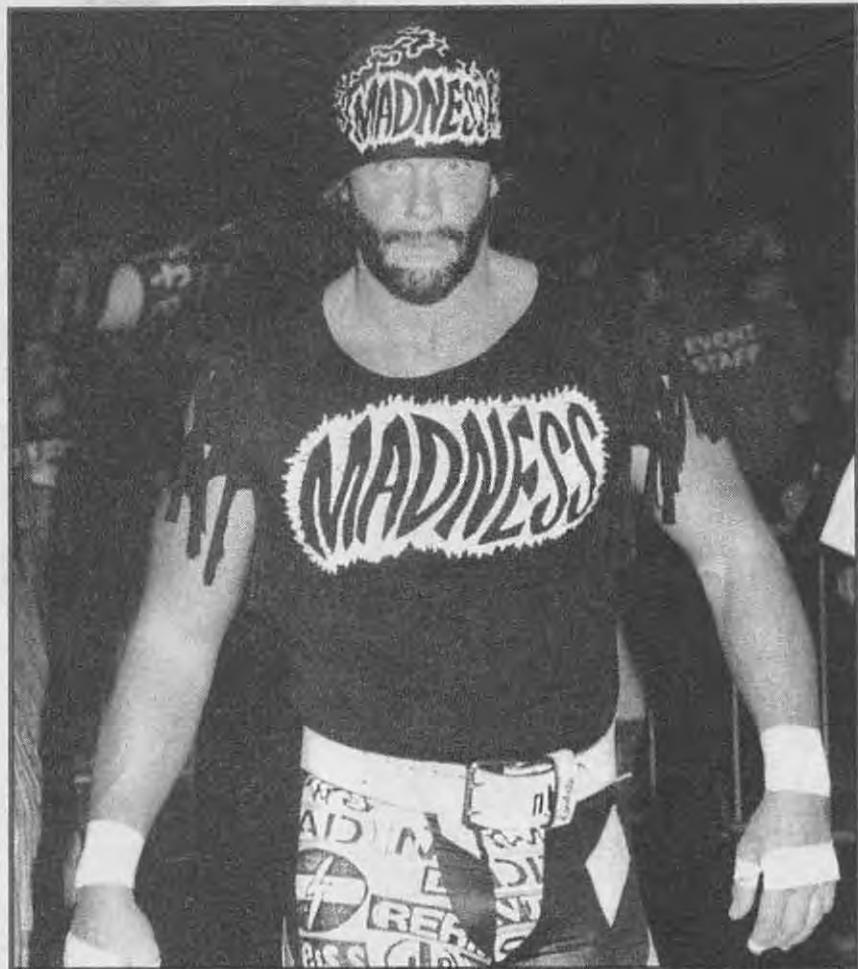
TYSON, HELMSLEY, & CHYNA

**C**ount this as one of the few times in Brock history that this reporter has gone to Japan voluntarily, without prodding from Saks. The occasion was Antonio Inoki's final match, and if that's not enough to convince any wrestling fan that it's time to use up some of that frequent flyer mileage and book a \$300-a-night room in downtown Tokyo, then nothing is. More than 70,000 fans showed up for the big event, although you can bet about a million will say they were there when Inoki beat Don Frye in his final match. Lots of skepticism, of course, about whether Inoki really is serious about staying in retirement, but nobody's going to cry foul if he changes his mind. Certainly none of the people who were here on this night. In Japan, wrestling is second only to baseball in popularity, and the scribes, at least the ones who could throw in a little English here and there, were telling me this was the biggest sporting event of the year in Japan, bigger than the Japanese World Series, bigger than the Olympics over in Nagano. "A soggy mess," said one scribe, who was there. Muhammad Ali, who faced Inoki in a dismal boxer vs. wrestler match in 1976, was there, and afterward Inoki was touched to tears. There's something you don't see often: a man like Inoki crying. That alone was worth the 13-hour flight.

**TOKYO, JAPAN**

**T**he bad news for Randy Savage is that he has a torn ACL. The good news is that he's still alive. A lot of people have wandered into the area around Miami Arena and come out all the worse for wear, and you can add Randy Savage to the list. Problem was, he wasn't accosted by any of the locals, although anybody who can negotiate an area within three blocks of this

**MIAMI, FL**



**RANDY SAVAGE**

big, pink catastrophe and not get approached by at least three drunks, two prostitutes, and four beggars had better check their underarms. Savage got attacked outside the Miami Arena by a man driving a little red car, which is the first clue that it wasn't a local who did the dirty deed. Nobody around here drives in little red cars, unless it's stolen. Kevin Nash says it's Hulk Hogan who did the dirty deed, and it's easy to believe him. So Savage is sitting on the sidelines, his knee and neck all wrapped up, making all kinds of promises and threats about what he's going to do to whoever did this to him. Been saying for a long time that it's time for Savage to give up this business and now I'm more sure of it than ever. A man with his kind of temper just has too many enemies. If the tear is that bad, he ought to seriously think about retirement, because if he comes back and isn't totally

healed, he's setting himself up for real disaster. By the way, if the "Macho Man" is through, don't expect the lovely Miss Liz to follow him quietly into retirement. She'll be looking for another meal ticket. Think Rick Steiner might be interested?

**W**asn't surprised to hear that Bam Bam Bigelow dropped the ECW TV title to Rob Van Dam. Van Dam weighs about 130 pounds less than Bigelow, but that hardly matters much because Bigelow has never had much of a heart. Speaking of heart, an old flame of mine, and one you've read about in the space a few times, ran out of heart. The ol' ticker ran short of batteries. Talking about Sheila Warner. May she rest in peace. Maybe now I can get rid of that telephone answering machine she bought me. □

**NEW YORK, NY**



# STRONG-ARM

Hawk and Animal were too busy having petty arguments to realize that they were destroying the partnership they had taken so long to build. But Sunny came to the rescue—and helped The Legion of Doom become better than ever!

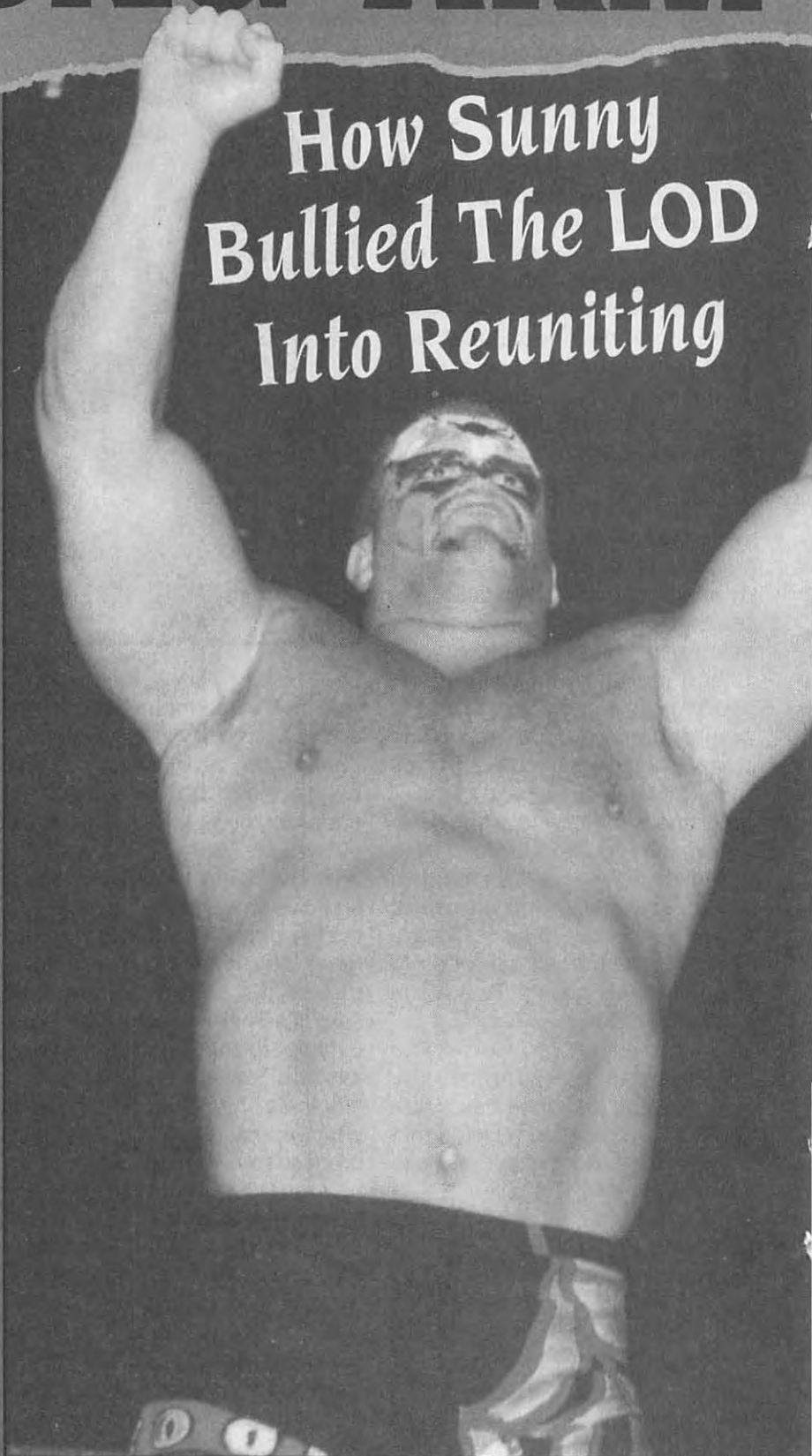
By Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HE ONE THING Sunny couldn't understand was how so great a team had fallen so far.

The Road Warriors, the dominant duo of the 1980s, the four-time *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Tag Team of the Year, were suddenly on the verge of a breakup. The end of The Legion of Doom, Sunny decided, just wasn't right. It wasn't necessary.

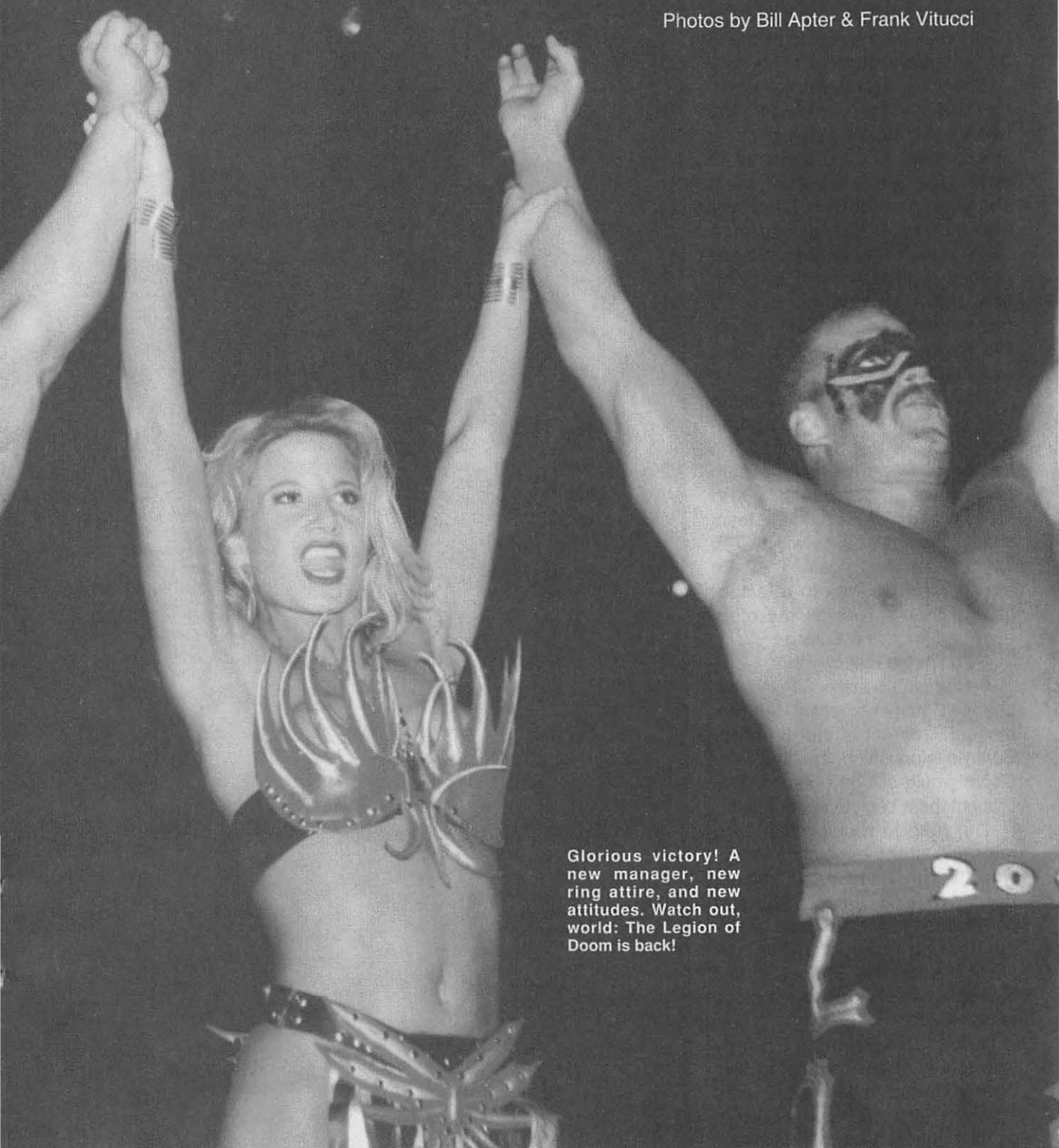
She looked at Hawk and Animal and saw two men in prime physical condition, mus-

How Sunny  
Bullied The LOD  
Into Reuniting



# TACTICS:

Photos by Bill Apter & Frank Vitucci



Glorious victory! A new manager, new ring attire, and new attitudes. Watch out, world: The Legion of Doom is back!



cular and lean, rehabilitated from the injuries they suffered in the mid-'90s. She also saw two men shoving each other after losing a match to The New Age Outlaws at the *Raw Is War* taping on February 17 in Waco, Texas.

A lot of people viewed that incident and interpreted it as tag team partners who had grown tired of each other, who just didn't want to be teammates anymore.

Sunny saw something different. She saw frustration and anger. And when Hawk and Animal kept going at each other in the dressing room even as people pulled them apart, she was more certain than ever that the Hawk/Animal marriage hadn't gone completely sour. It just needed a push in the right direction. Not a physical push, but a mental push. A boost. Some incentive. Maybe a breath of fresh air.

A pretty face, perhaps?

"There's nothing they've done before that they can't do again," Sunny said a few days after The Legion of Doom won a 15-team battle royal at *WrestleMania XIV*. "They will be WWF World tag team champions again. They will be Tag Team of the Year again. They are already on their way to re-establishing themselves as the most dominant force in wrestling."

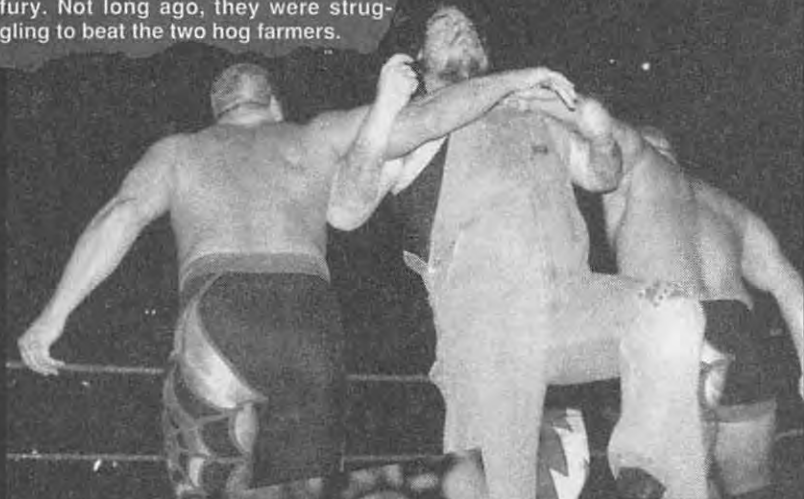
"And I'm the reason why."

Sunny isn't boasting. For once, she isn't guilty of blatant self-promotion. The fact is that if not for Sunny's intervention, The Legion of Doom would still be doomed. She brought them back together again.

The road to reunion started a few days after the match in Waco, when Sunny and Chris Candido, her boyfriend, were sitting at home discussing the latest developments in the sport. She was upset. Animal was one of her best friends in wrestling; she felt close to Hawk, too.

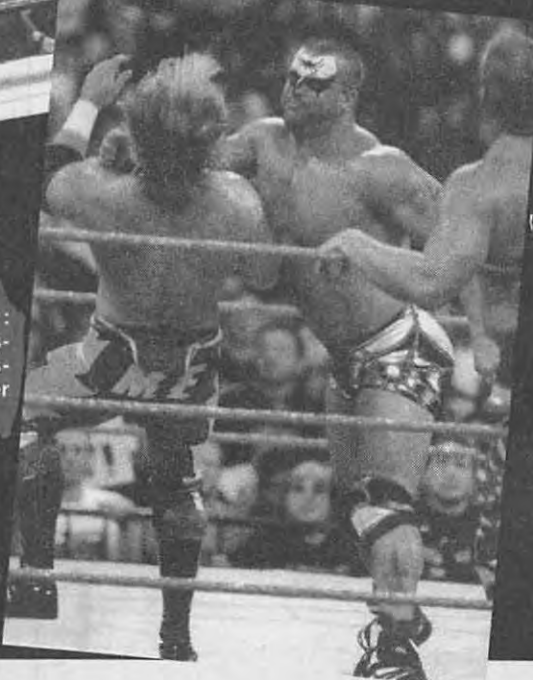
"I don't understand it," Sunny said to Candido. "There's no way these guys should be apart. There's no way a team this dominant should be having these kinds of problems. I

At the *WrestleMania* battle royal, the Godwinns were two of the unfortunate recipients of the LOD's revitalized fury. Not long ago, they were struggling to beat the two hog farmers.



Poor Phineas: Animal hasn't wrestled with such determination in years! Just a few months ago, he didn't even want to be in the same room as Hawk.

Poor Bob Holly: Animal's clotheslines haven't displayed such power in years, either!





At WrestleMania, Jim Cornette's new Midnight Express, battling two-on-one, couldn't muster the strength and determination to oust Hawk.



Bart Gunn gets pounded into the canvas by a truly Animal-istic powerslam. Is there a team in the WWF that the LOD 2000 couldn't dominate now?

don't understand it. Maybe they just got tired of each other."

"So do something about it," Candido said.

"Me? Like what?" Sunny asked.

"Like the same thing you do to me when you want me to do something. Go for it. Lay down the law. Let them know what you want them to do in no uncertain terms."

"You think I..."

"Yeah," Candido said, smirking.

"Good idea," Sunny said. Then she picked up the phone and made two long-distance calls.

The first was to Animal.

"Honey," Sunny told him, "we have to talk. You know that diner near Philly, the one we used to meet at? Be there. Eight o'clock. Tomorrow night. Don't cancel. And don't be late."

The second call was to Hawk.

"Honey," Sunny told him, "we have to talk. You know that diner near Philly, the one we used to meet at? Be there. Make it a little after 8. Tomorrow night. Don't cancel. And don't be late."

That night, Sunny put on her Sunday best. Full makeup. The sexiest skirt she could find. A tight sweater. High heels.

And then she went to work.

Animal arrived first, as planned.

"What's going on with you and Hawk?" Sunny asked.

"Nothing," Animal growled. "We're history. And if that's what you invited me here to talk about, then we've got nothing to talk about."

"Listen to me," Sunny said. "No man walks out on me, and you're not walking out on me tonight, not in some two-bit diner. I'm talking. You're listening."

Hawk showed up a few minutes later and was shocked to see Animal sitting with Sunny. Animal was equally shocked. He got up to leave.

"If he's staying, I'm not," Animal barked.

"You're both staying," Sunny ordered. "And that's not a request. Now sit down. Tonight, you're hav-

ing dinner with a lady."

The conversation was one-sided. Sunny talked; Animal and Hawk listened.

"Listen to what I'm saying," Sunny said. "You two guys were the best tag team in the world, but then you went soft. You got frustrated. You didn't win enough, and then you lost your killer instinct. And you know what The Legion of Doom is without its killer instinct? Nothing. What happened to you guys charging the ring before the bell and taking no prisoners? What happened to that attitude? Well, I'll tell you what happened. You lost your direction."

"But..." Hawk started.

"But nothing," Sunny continued, refusing to let Hawk speak. "You guys haven't lost anything. You've still got the bodies. You've still got the skill. You can still be great. You can be champions again, but you have to want it. Do you guys want to argue like two little kids, or do you want to take care of business? You've got to answer that question, but I think I already know the answer. Concentrate on the job at hand. I'll be your manager. I'll take care of all the little stuff. Put your hearts into it, and you can be great again. You can be the best. World champions. The greatest tag team of all-time. Imagine that, guys: Regain the glory. You can do it."

"So what's it gonna be? Yes or no? And I'll tell you this right now: We're not getting up from this table until you say yes."

Within an hour, Animal and Hawk were back on speaking terms. By the time the night ended, they had agreed to reunite, take Sunny as their manager, make a few slight adjustments in their ring attire, and a few more significant ones in their ring attitude. They also made a target date for their return.


"WrestleMania," Sunny said. "It'll be glorious."

It was.

And as far as Sunny's concerned, it's about to get better. □



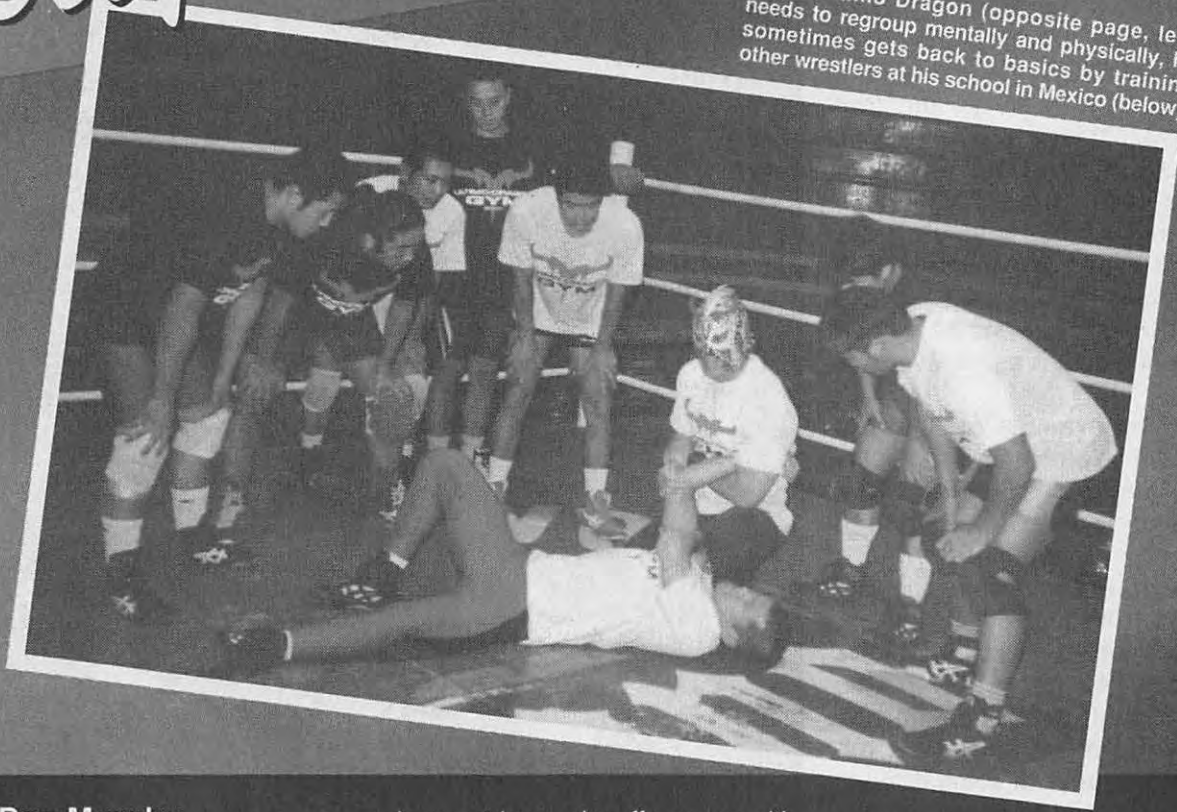
# AVOIDING BURNOUT

A black and white photograph of the professional wrestler Ultimo Dragon. He is wearing a mask with a dragon-like design, a white and black patterned cape, and a white waistband. He is standing with his hands at his sides, looking slightly to the left.

The rigors of competing in WCW have claimed many victims lately. Will Ultimo Dragon be next? The Japanese sensation says no ... but is burnout one opponent he can't ultimately master?

# What Happens When The Ultimo Dragon Stops Breathing Fire?

When Ultimo Dragon (opposite page, left) needs to regroup mentally and physically, he sometimes gets back to basics by training other wrestlers at his school in Mexico (below).



By Dan Murphy

EVERYONE WHO EARNS a living competing within the confines of the squared circle has a different way of coping with the unique rigors of their chosen occupation.

To excel, wrestlers must be at the top of their game, physically, mentally, and emotionally, 365 days per year. Unlike sports such as football or hockey, wrestling

does not have playoffs or one ultimate season-ending prize like the Super Bowl or Stanley Cup. Every match has an effect on a wrestler's hopes for a title shot somewhere down the line, and one wrong move can send a championship contender plummeting toward the very bottom of the rankings. Those who give their all to win a title are then put in the tougher position of having to defend that title.

There's no off-season in this precarious business that has seen more wrestlers fade away than achieve championship glory. Even a grounded, no-nonsense competitor such as Dean Malenko recently admitted that the pressure of the sport forced him to take a sabbatical from the ring.

Perhaps Malenko should sit down and have a heart-to-heart talk with Ultimo Dragon. The



Dragon has an unorthodox, but very successful approach to avoiding wrestling burnout.

"It's a cyclical approach, one that is rather unique to an Eastern wrestler as opposed to an American competitor," said WCW commentator Mike Tenay. "Ultimo Dragon wrestles all-out and guns for titles. If he loses a few matches in a row, he goes back to the gym and starts watching tapes again rather than let the losses get him down."

That analytical mindset has rewarded Dragon with two WCW TV titles, two WCW cruiserweight reigns, and a victory for Japan's J-Crown. It has also kept him consistently at or near the top of the list of WCW title contenders for the past year. To put that accomplishment in perspective: Two of the men Dragon beat for those four titles in WCW—Malenko and Steven Regal—weren't even competing in WCW as of press time.

Yet Dragon remains as dangerous a competitor as he ever has been.

A good example of Dragon's competitive fire was on display after his *Nitro* loss to Perry Saturn earlier this year. Rather than demand an immediate rematch against Saturn and become distracted from making a title run, Dragon lobbied for a lower-profile opponent two weeks later. In the subsequent match against Kaz Hayashi, Dragon seized the opportunity to attempt some different maneuvers and to use a ground-based attack.

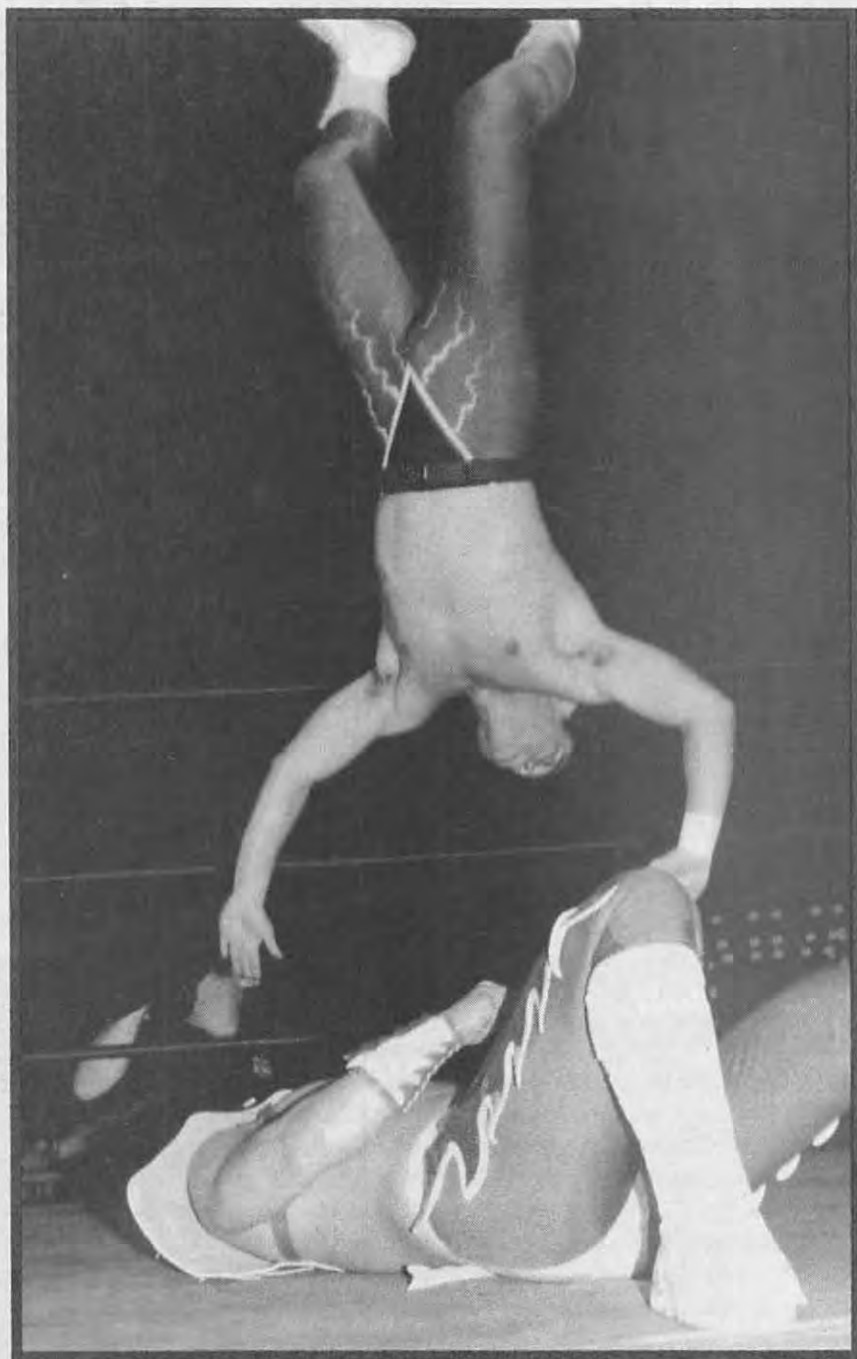
It wasn't that Dragon was afraid of a return bout with Saturn. He simply stepped out of the spotlight, regrouped, and re-emerged as a title contender.

"You really couldn't find two wrestlers with more different philosophies than Saturn and Ultimo," Tenay said. "On the one hand you've got Saturn, who rushed to get back after tearing his anterior cruciate and menis-

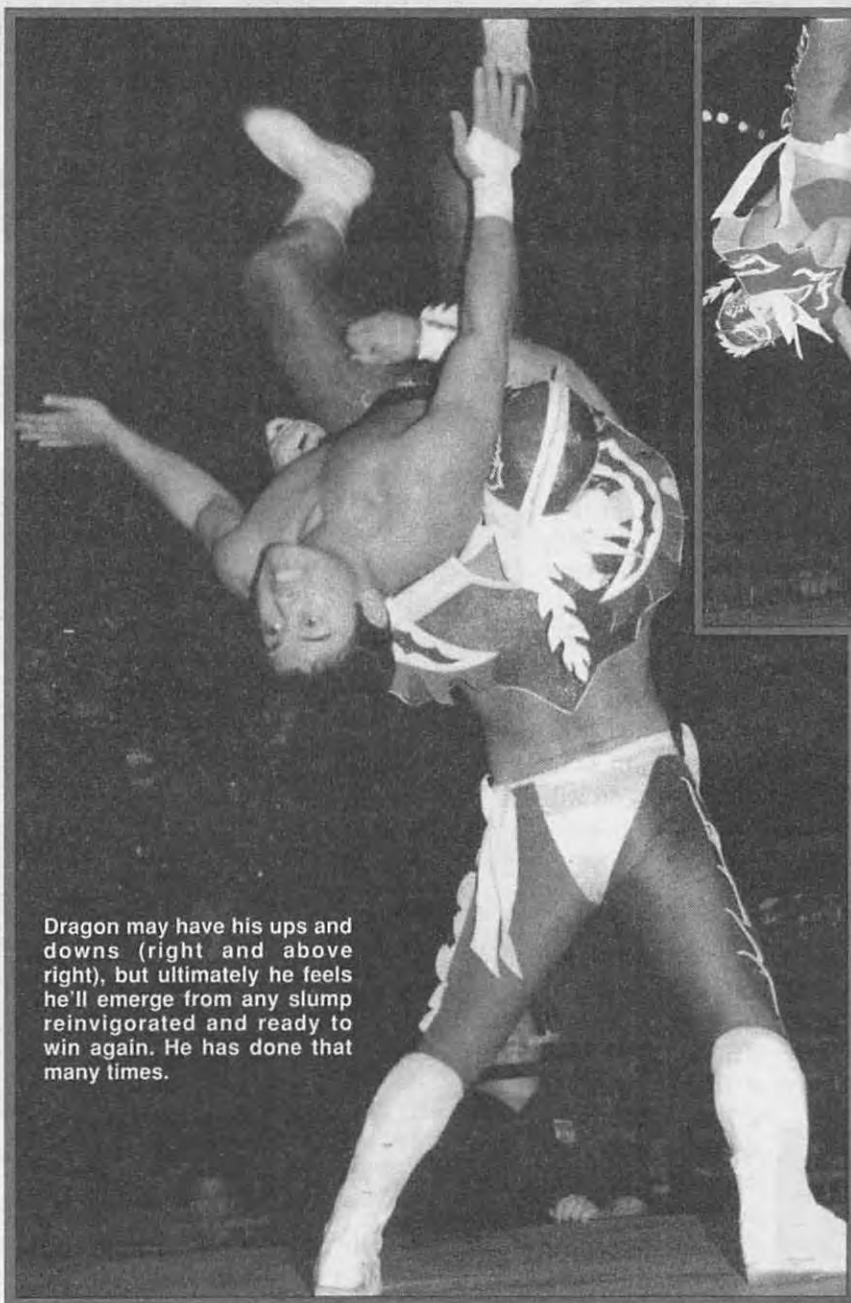
cus ligaments—and suffering some other serious injuries to his leg. On the other hand you've got Dragon, who tends to cut down his schedule if he suffers a relatively minor injury or a few losses in a row. That's not a criticism of Dragon by any means. It's just demonstrates that he feels he must be at the absolute top of his game, both physically and mentally, whenever

he sets foot in the ring."

Which is fine for Dragon stylistically, but today's WCW is not the place for a part-time competitor. With the rigors of two live televised cards per week, plus arena shows, TV tapings, and pay-per-view events, nearly everyone in WCW has had to step up his schedule considerably. Wrestling four or five nights a week may very well put Dragon into a posi-



Competing against the inexperienced and unheralded Kaz Hayashi helped Dragon rebound from a loss against Perry Saturn.



Dragon may have his ups and downs (right and above right), but ultimately he feels he'll emerge from any slump reinvigorated and ready to win again. He has done that many times.



matches in a row to a champion and still be able to win a title? These are the questions that can literally make or break Ultimo Dragon's career.

"Dragons die in battle, but they do not burn out," Dragon said decisively. "I do not intend to be the first." □

tion where he must wrestle regardless of whether he feels he's at 100 percent.

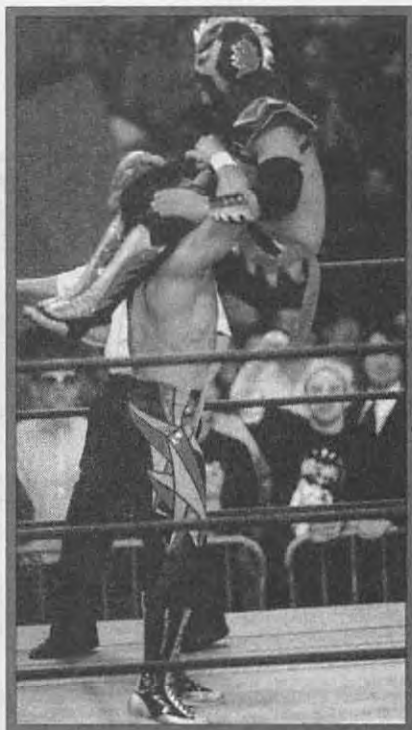
What will happen then?

"I would wrestle eight nights a week if it was possible," Dragon said through a thick Japanese accent. "I am a wrestler, and that is what I do. That need not prevent me from working with sparring partners or analyzing a discouraging loss on videocassette."

"Ultimo Dragon has put himself in difficult spots since day one," Tenay said. "He's used to working his way back up from the bottom,

because he's voluntarily gone to the bottom so many times. He's asked to wrestle in dark matches on major pay-per-views. He knows how to pace himself ... and when to strike to win."

"Wrestling more inexperienced wrestlers has allowed me to perfect moves I would otherwise be unable to attempt against more experienced wrestlers," Dragon explained. "And surely you would agree that in the case of the Dragon sleeper, the Asai moonsault, and the La Magistral cradle, it has certainly been a successful



When Dragon strikes, opponents like Eddy Guerrero feel the fire. But can even so determined a man as Ultimo maintain a positive attitude long enough in the fierce environs of today's WCW?



# WRESTLEMANIA XIV

## The Real Winners

By Dave Lenker

**D**ON'T BELIEVE everything you see. Matches are won and lost, but the real winners and losers aren't always so obvious. Take WrestleMania XIV, for instance. A sellout crowd at the FleetCenter in Boston, plus hundreds of thousands of viewers on pay-per-view, thought they saw exactly who won and who lost all eight matches on the card. But, as the events of that night and the following weeks proved, not everything was so black and white.

Here then is our analysis of WrestleMania XIV, match-by-match, with a look at who *really* won and who *really* lost.

...  
**THE MATCH:** A 15-team battle royal. The winner gets a shot at the World tag team title.

**THE WINNERS:** LOD 2000 made a thrilling return to the ring, joined by their new manager, Sunny, and received a loud ovation from the sellout crowd. The reunion was a success: Hawk and Animal won the battle royal by last eliminating the new Midnight Express, managed by long-time LOD rival Jim Cornette.

**THE REAL WINNER:** Sunny, a friend of LOD 2000, who once again proved her managerial prowess by bringing Hawk and Animal back together. The Warriors have gone through a lot of ups and downs, but they once again appear to be at a peak as they work toward the WWF World title, thanks to their new manager.

**THE REAL LOSERS:** The New Age Outlaws—Billy Gunn and Jesse James—who until the



LOD 2000 won the 15-team battle royal by last eliminating the new Midnight Express, but Sunny stands to gain a lot from this victory.

Warriors reunited could look around the WWF and see little competition for the tag belts. Not anymore. The Outlaws will be underdogs every time they step into the ring against Hawk and Animal.

**ANOTHER LOSER:** Jim Cornette, who might have thought he found easy tag team pickings in the WWF.

...  
**THE MATCH:** Light heavyweight champion Taka Michinoku defends his title against Aguila.

**THE WINNER:** Michinoku, at 5:54 via his "Michinoku Driver," after overcoming an early aerial assault by Aguila.

The sold-out FleetCenter in downtown Boston was the site of WrestleMania XIV. It was a great pay-per-view for some WWF stars, anything but great for others.



# And Losers

**THE REAL WINNER:** Michinoku, who continues to prove his prowess as WWF light heavy-weight champion. Will the WWF



Light heavyweight champion Taka Michinoku defended his title against Aguila in a high-flying encounter. Just another win for Taka, but a huge loss for Aguila.

ever find a worthy light heavy-weight opponent for him?

**THE REAL LOSER:** Aguila, who lost too quickly and too decisively to demand any more title matches.

...

**THE MATCH:** European champion Hunter Hearst Helmsley, with Chyna, defends the belt against Owen Hart.

**THE WINNER:** WWF Commissioner Sgt. Slaughter thought he'd neutralize Chyna by handcuffing himself to the musclebound

valet at ringside, but his plan didn't work. Chyna overpowered Slaughter, threw white powder in his eyes, and punched Hart in the groin, enabling Helmsley to score the pin at 11:27.

**THE REAL WINNER:** Chyna, who proved that she can't be neutralized, not even by a hulking former WWF World champ who happens to be the commissioner. Slaughter was no match for Chyna, and it looks as if the WWF powers will have to come up with new ways to prevent her from interfering.

**THE REAL LOSER:** Slaughter, of course, who was pushed around by a woman and couldn't stop Chyna from marring this title match. Instead of ruling with his fists, maybe Slaughter should try using some of the power the WWF gave him.

We're talking about the power to levy fines and suspensions, to tell Helmsley that he'll be stripped of the title if Chyna interferes, to use the rulebook against Chyna. In this case, Slaughter lost on all counts. He was an ineffective commissioner.

...

**THE MATCH:** Marc Mero and



Hunter Hearst Helmsley warded off a game Owen Hart in Owen's bid for the European title, while Chyna exposed Sgt. Slaughter as a weak WWF commissioner.

Sable vs. Goldust and Luna Vachon in a mixed tag team match.

**THE WINNERS:** Sable and Mero, after Sable used a Mero "TKO" to drop Vachon and cover her for the pin at 9:10.

**THE REAL WINNER:** Sable was one of the big winners of the entire night. Not only did she win the match, but she demonstrated exceptional wrestling prowess by flooring Goldust and covering him for a pin attempt. Mero tried to dominate, but Sable was so angry



Sable acquitted herself quite well in her mixed tag match with Marc Mero against Goldust and Luna. Mero's team won, but not because of his efforts.



that neither Vachon nor Goldust was any match for her.

**THE REAL LOSER:** Sure, Luna had a tough night. And Goldust looked bad when Sable covered him for 10 seconds with seven minutes gone in the match. But there was no bigger loser than the egotistical, sexist Mero, who has tried time and again to distract attention from Sable and turn it upon himself. But even Mero had to admit that Sable was the star of *WrestleMania XIV*. Before he and Sable left the ring, he reluctantly raised her arm in victory. Now who wears the pants in this pairing?

...

**THE MATCH:** Rocky Maivia defends the Intercontinental title

against Ken Shamrock.

**THE WINNER:** Shamrock apparently won the I-C title when he forced Maivia to submit to an anklelock at 4:46.

**THE REAL WINNER:** Maivia, who got the title back when Shamrock was disqualified for refusing to release the anklelock.

**ANOTHER REAL WINNER:** Shamrock, who dominated so thoroughly that it's obvious he'll eventually get the belt ... if only he can control his anger and stop attacking referees.

**YET ANOTHER REAL WINNER:** Faarooq, who was booted out of *The Nation of Domination* the next night and can now count on getting *title* matches (not just grudge matches) against Maivia.

**THE REAL LOSERS:** All the officials who were attacked and slammed by the angry Shamrock when they tried to calm him down.

...

**THE MATCH:** The New Age Outlaws defend the World tag team belts in a dumpster match against Terry Funk and Cactus Jack.

**THE WINNERS:** The object of the match was for one team to deposit the other team in a garbage dumpster that had been set up at ringside and close the lid. Terry Funk and Cactus, however, chose an alternate dumpster, one that was backstage at the FleetCenter. Funk used a forklift to raise the Outlaws into the dumpster, then Cactus closed the lid for the win.

Cactus Jack and Jesse James punished each other, as did Terry Funk and Billy Gunn, in their special dumpster match. LOD 2000 had to love watching this.



**THE REAL WINNERS:** Not so fast, guys. The use of the alternate dumpster was deemed illegal by the WWF and the belts were ordered held up. The next night at *Raw*, Billy Gunn and Jesse James defeated Funk and Jack in a cage match for the belts.

**THE BIGGEST WINNERS:** LOD 2000, who had to be watching these matches and licking their chops in anticipation of future title matches.

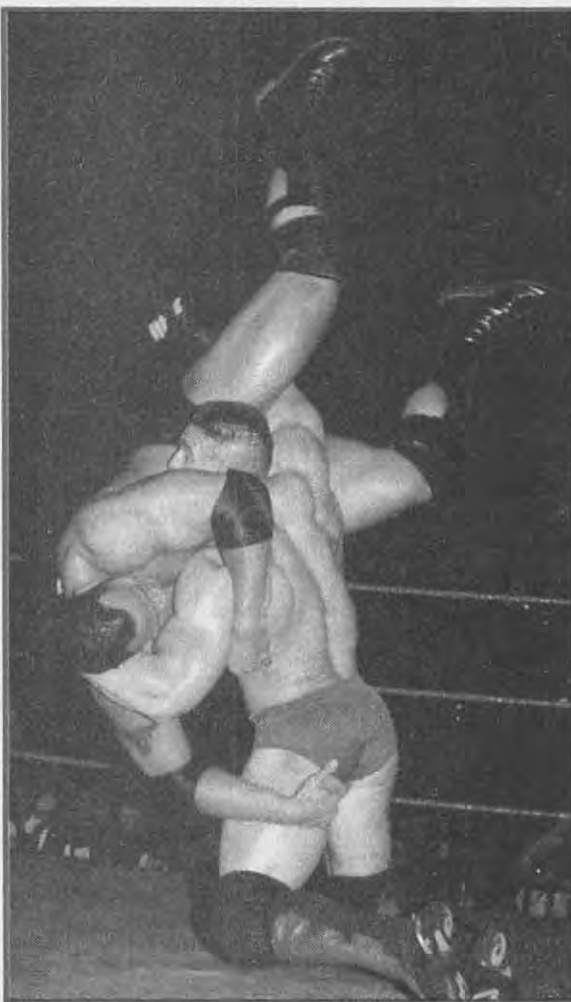
...

**THE MATCH:** The Undertaker vs. Kane.

**THE WINNER:** Undertaker, via "tombstone" piledriver at 16:57.

**THE REAL WINNER:** Kane, who baited his alleged brother into these matches and found out a day later that there would be more of them.

**THE REAL LOSER:** The Undertaker, who never wanted to wrestle Kane in the first place. And although he won the match, he was attacked by Kane afterward and piledriven onto a steel chair.



Ken Shamrock dominated I-C champ Rocky Maivia in their match for the Intercontinental title, but his victory was overturned. He should be able to beat "The Rock" in the future.



The Undertaker issued Kane his first defeat at WrestleMania XIV, but what did he really gain from it?

**ANOTHER REAL LOSER:** Paul Bearer, Kane's manager, who was laid out by Undertaker after the match.

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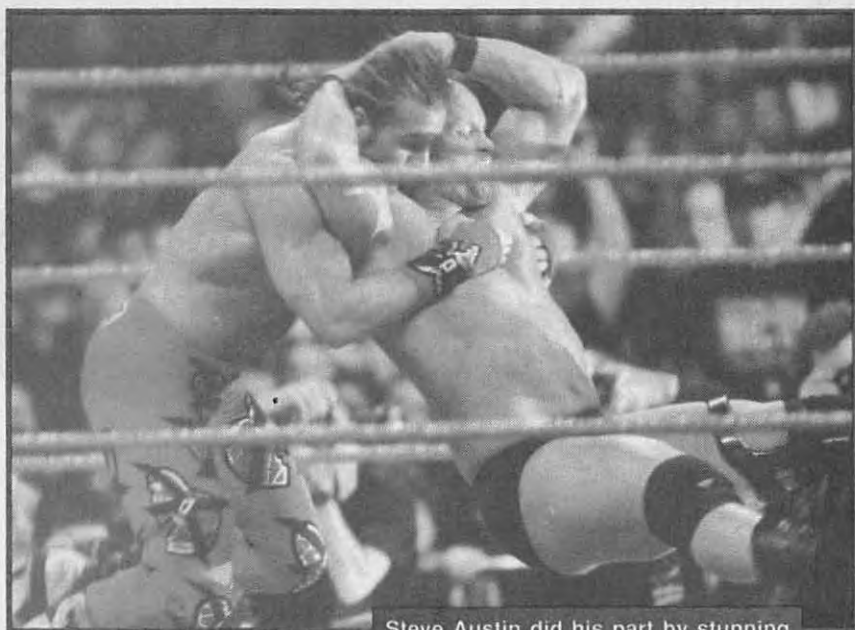
**THE MATCH:** Shawn Michaels defends the WWF World heavy-weight title against Steve Austin, with Mike Tyson as special ringside enforcer.

**THE WINNER:** Austin, by pinfall at 20:05 when Tyson, a member of Michaels' DeGeneration X, made the three-count.

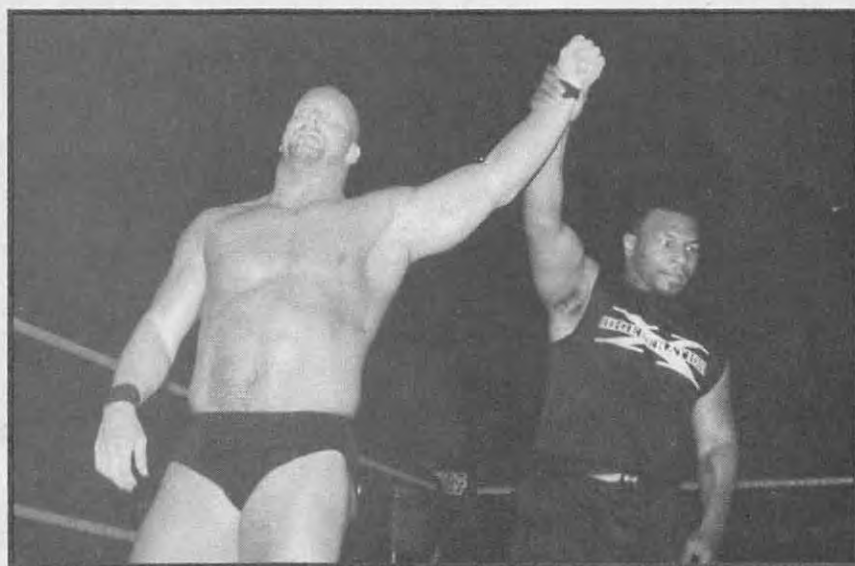
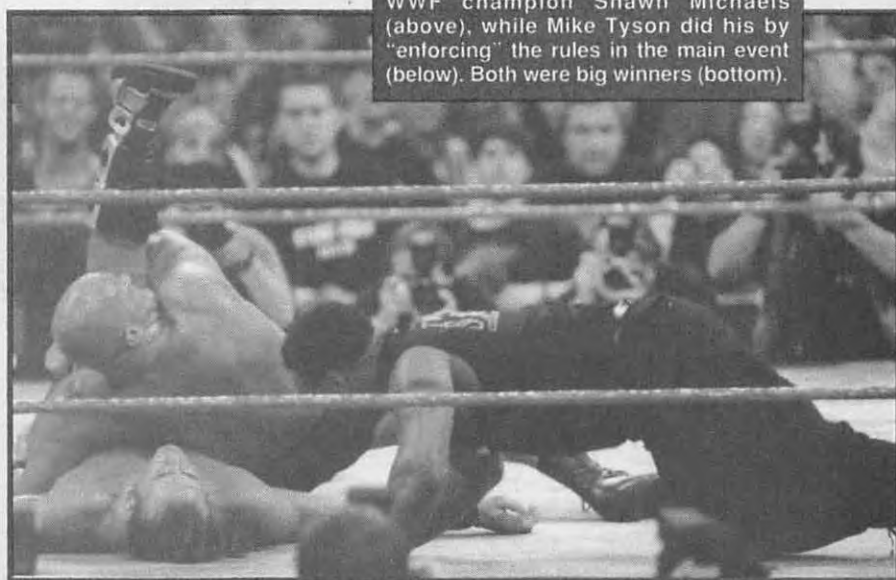
**THE REAL WINNER:** Austin, who captured his first world title and contributed to dissension within the DX ranks.

**ANOTHER REAL WINNER:** Mike Tyson, who proved to be an unbiased "enforcer," even though he came to the ring wearing a DeGeneration X T-shirt.

**THE BIGGEST LOSER OF ALL:** Michaels, who reinjured his back during the match and could miss up to nine months. He also lost control of DeGeneration X. Helmsley later said he was taking over as the head of DX because Shawn had convinced him that Tyson could be trusted. Actually, Tyson could be trusted. He just couldn't be trusted to cheat. □



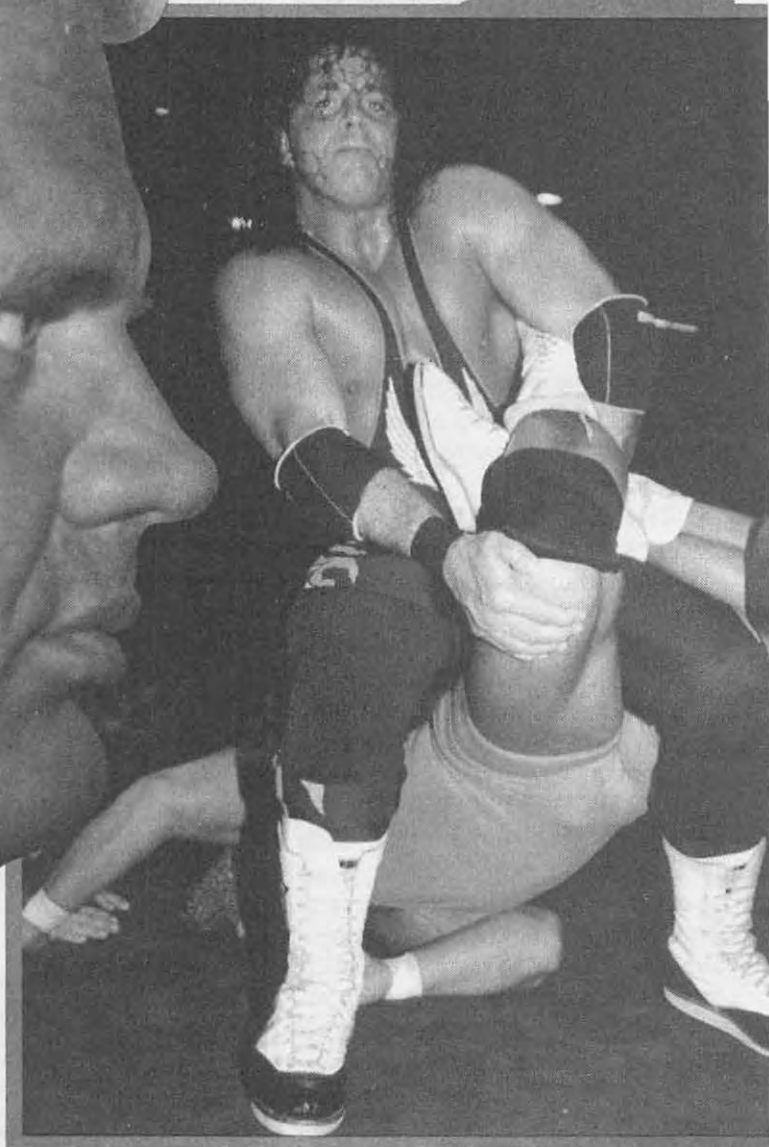
Steve Austin did his part by stunning WWF champion Shawn Michaels (above), while Mike Tyson did his by "enforcing" the rules in the main event (below). Both were big winners (bottom).

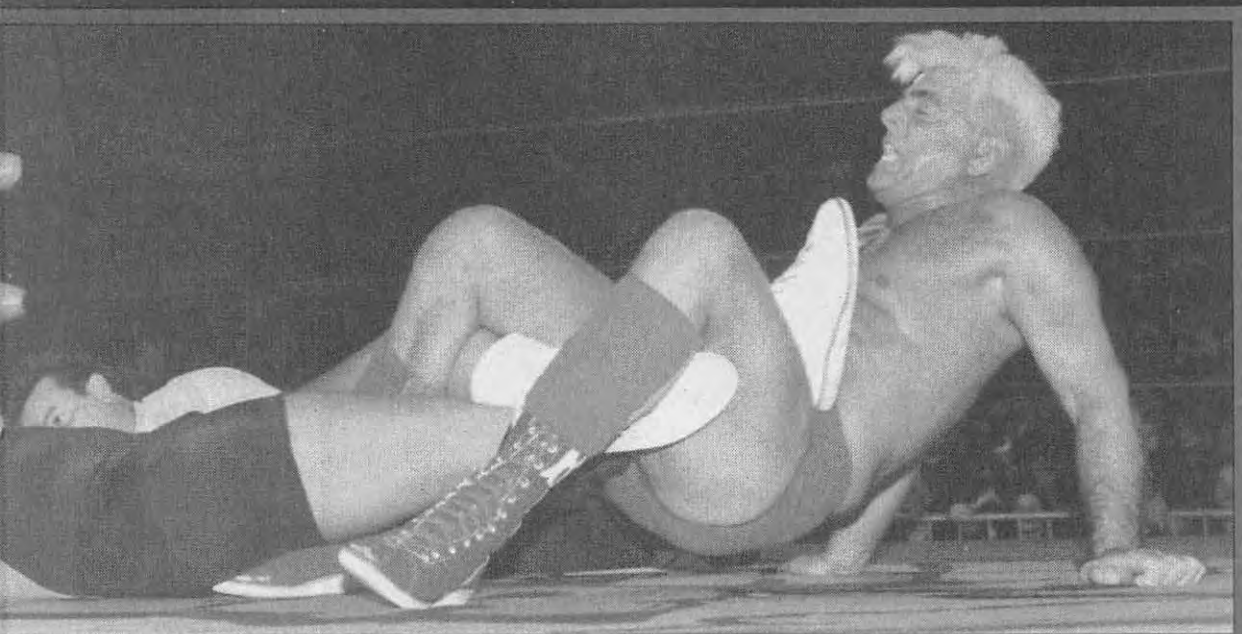




**Curt Hennig never cared about stepping on people on the way up; that he might meet them on the way down never crossed his mind. Ironically, he is still ascending that ladder—and those people he stepped on before aren't about to help him now**

Curt Hennig has faced Ric Flair (right) and Bret Hart (below) in years past. Today, instead of making them his allies in WCW, Hennig is angering them more than ever.





# CURT'S CURSE

## What Do All These People Have Against Hennig?

By Steve Anderson

**I**MAGINE CURT HENNIG'S closet at home. It is probably filled with the dapper outfits from his stint as a WWF "advisor," some old wrestling singlets, and perhaps a championship belt or two.

But if you dig a little deeper, you'll find something else.

A few skeletons.

When Hennig turned rule-

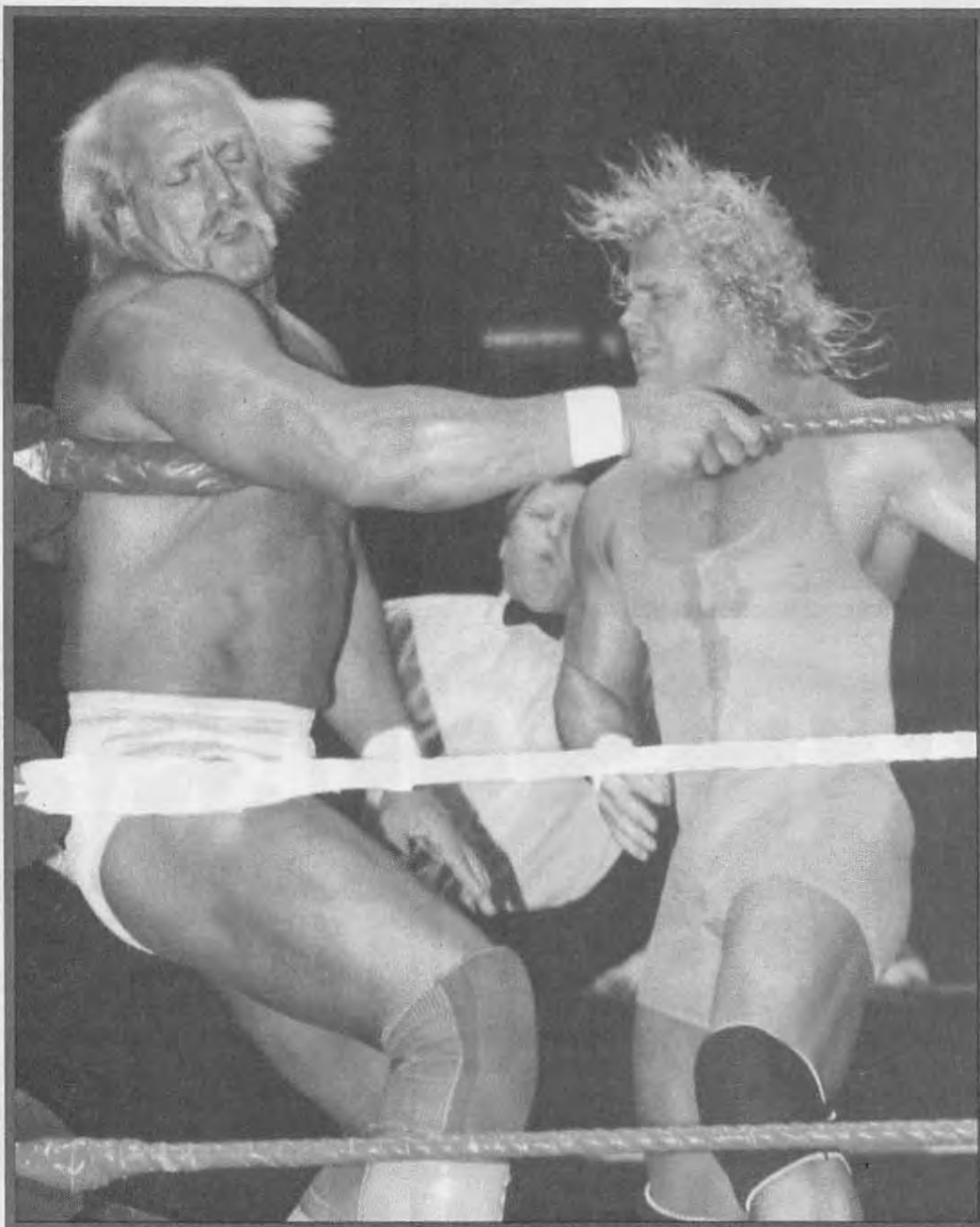
breaker more than a decade ago in the now-defunct AWA, his father, Larry "The Ax" Hennig, provided him with solid paternal support. He also gave his son some sage advice about selecting his enemies very carefully. "You never know when you might need an enemy as a friend," the elder Hennig is said to have told young Curt.

Hennig didn't always take his father's advice. For nearly a

decade (with only occasional pauses as a fan favorite), he continued his rulebreaking ways. He had a bitter feud with Hulk Hogan over the WWF World title, several battles with Bret Hart over the Intercontinental belt, and a war to end all wars with Ric Flair that resulted in the "Nature Boy" leaving the WWF.

Now Hennig finds himself in WCW as an active—and competitive—wrestler. A new setting





Hennig and Hulk Hogan have had their differences in the past, and they may soon again ... If Hennig doesn't hold up his part of the NWO bargain, that is, and keep Hart away from Hollywood.

with some familiar faces who have not quite forgotten the past. Now a wily veteran in his own right, Hennig has noticed that his past is starting to catch up with him. Everywhere he turns, he is finding old enemies who are still holding a grudge against the man they knew and hated as "Mr. Perfect."

Flair was willing to forgive when Hennig arrived in WCW and showed a willingness to

form a team and subsequently join The Four Horsemen. But the memories of Hennig's past betrayal came flooding back to Flair when his former friend joined the NWO.

"What's that old saying? Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me," said Flair. "Hennig's proven that he cannot be trusted. He not only betrayed me, he betrayed the Horsemen. No one, but no one, gets away

with that. As far as he and I go, it will never be over."

While Hennig has tried to move on from his feud with Flair, the "Nature Boy's" hatred for Hennig is still as fresh as it was on that fateful Fall Brawl night. Flair will never forget the feeling he experienced when a cage door nearly crushed his face. He doesn't want Hennig to forget about it, either.

When Hart first met up with Hennig, he was looking to establish his singles career once and for all. Hennig was the reigning Intercontinental champion in the WWF, and a natural target for the "Hitman." Hart won the battles, but Hennig didn't make it easy.

"When I defeated Hennig, I felt that I'd finally arrived as a singles wrestler," recalled Hart. "But

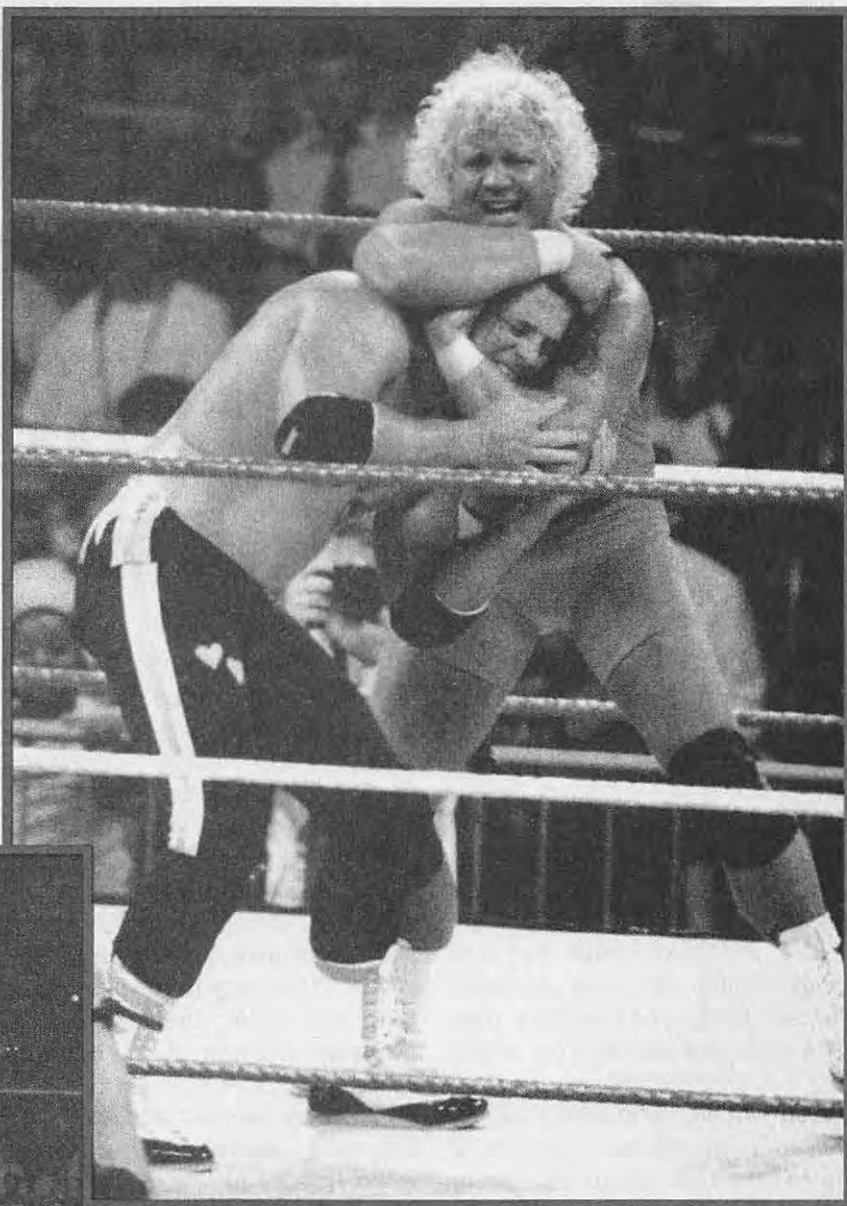
that doesn't mean that I think I owe him anything. He did everything to try and stop me. He pulled out every dirty trick in the book. He would have been content to end my career. It's not an easy thing to forget."

When the "Hitman" arrived in WCW, he immediately targeted the NWO. What he truly wanted was Hulk Hogan, but he knew he had to chip away at the foundation to get to the leader. He

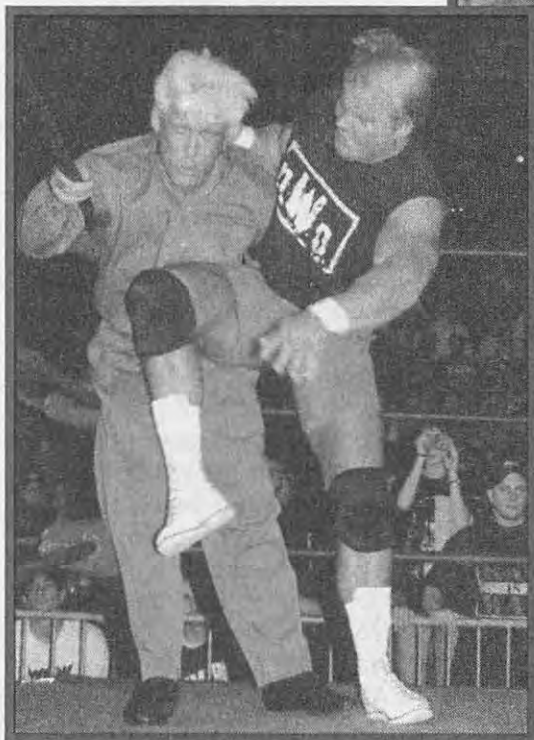
found Hennig at that foundation and has dominated the feud to date.

Hollywood Hogan may seem like an NWO brother to Hennig, but that doesn't mean that the memories of his bitter feud with the former "Mr. Perfect" have dissipated. Sources close to the NWO claim that Hennig's indoctrination into the group was very conditional and might remain that way. Supposedly, Hennig, seeing how Hogan was threatened by Hart, volunteered to take care of the "Hitman." That's the story Hennig is telling. Others say Hogan insisted that Hennig target Hart.

"Curt stepped up to the plate," said one source, "but he did it on direct orders from Hogan. This was not his idea. He knew that hard feelings still existed with Hogan, and he still wants to be a



Hennig looked good in losing the WWF Intercontinental title to Bret Hart, a 1991 match that cemented Hart's solo wrestler status. Hennig was brutal in their feud, a fact the "Hitman" hasn't forgotten.



By joining the NWO, Hennig helped dismantle The Four Horsemen—and made the "Nature Boy" one of his primary enemies yet again.

power player in the New World Order. So he agreed to try to get rid of Hart. Hennig's recruitment was pure business. Hogan knew

that he could shift the balance of power and destroy the Horsemen at the same time." Hennig has been in WCW for less than a year, but already he has racked up his fair share of enemies. From "Diamond" Dallas Page in Hennig's WCW pay-per-view debut to his current trifecta of detractors, Hennig hasn't heeded his father's advice. He could have used his current WCW stint to mend

friendships and rivalries from the past; instead, he's building up a collection of enemies larger than ever.

His closest (and perhaps only) friend, Rick Rude, sums it up like this: "When you're a blue-chip talent like Curt Hennig, there will obviously be jealousy all around you, sometimes from both your allies and your enemies. Its part of the territory of being great."

Hennig vs. Flair ... vs. Hart ... and vs. Hogan.

WCW may not be big enough for all of them. □



# HOTSEAT

## RICK STEINER:

### "I KEEP HOPING IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM"

**FAMILY DIFFERENCES.** They're a part of life. Even the closest friends and family members don't get along 100 percent of the time. There are the inevitable squabbles. The difficulties. Disagreements. Ever attend a big wedding? Then you know what we mean.

Rick and Scott Steiner had their share of differences. As tag team partners for nearly a decade, they occasionally disagreed on whom they should wrestle, where they should wrestle, who was the right manager for the team, and how they should go about designing their game plan for a big match. But never had they talked about splitting. Even through all the injuries and inevitable slumps, they had never discussed splitting.

In fact, right up until the night it happened, at SuperBrawl VIII, the Steiner brothers had never openly entertained the idea of going their separate ways. Privately, however, was another story. The NWO had made overtures to the Steiners that Rick vehemently and Scott not-so-vehemently turned down. How could Rick have known that Scott attended several meetings with the NWO and had negotiated a deal ... for himself?

Of course, he couldn't have known. Even in the Steiners' match

against Kevin Nash and Scott Hall and SuperBrawl, when Scott stood above Rick in the traditional Steiners pose, nobody—especially Rick—suspected what was about to happen: Scott beat down upon his brother savagely, viciously, as if the man below him was not his blood. Scott's sacrifice of his brother to the NWO was also a sacrifice of the WCW World tag team belts, but later that night, the loss of the championship was of little concern to Rick.

"He was crushed and he didn't seem any better a month later when I spoke to him for this interview," Senior Editor Bill Apter reported. "I kept on trying to change the subject, but Rick wanted to talk about only one thing." Clearly, the "Hotseat" has not cooled down for this stricken Steiner.

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**"This isn't about the tag team title. This isn't about the NWO. I'd give up every tag team championship I ever won to get my brother back."**

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**Q:** Rick, all these weeks have passed and it seems as if you still have not gotten over what

happened at SuperBrawl.

**A:** How could I get over it? Could you? I mean, look what happened. My own brother, my own flesh and blood, turns against me, and does so like that, joining the NWO, basically selling me out for money. What am I supposed to do, turn the page and go on to the next chapter?

**Q:** Some people say that could be an option.

**A:** Then who are those people? People who don't have brothers or sisters? People who don't care about their own families? This isn't about the tag team title. This isn't about the NWO. I'd give up every tag team championship I ever won to get my brother back.

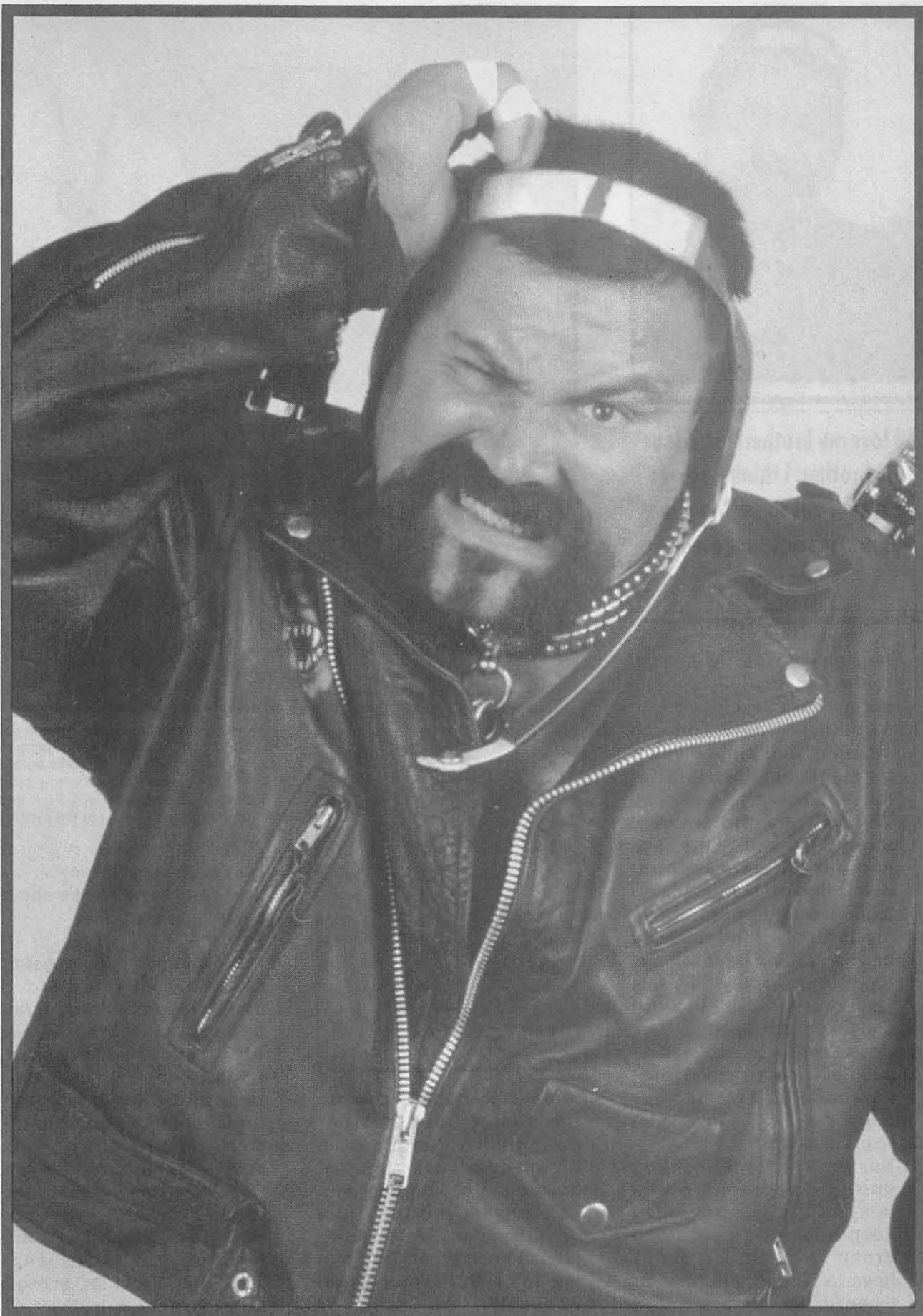
**Q:** But you won't join the NWO.

**A:** No.

**Q:** No way?

**A:** Absolutely not. Why should I join them. They stole my brother! I'll have nothing to do with them, unless it's to beat them to a pulp in the ring.

**Q:** Some people might say they didn't steal your brother. I mean, you can't be taken if you don't want to be taken. If







**"I love my brother. I still love my brother. I think he loves me, too, but something like this ... it's not supposed to happen."**

*he didn't want to be bought, there wouldn't have been enough money in the world.*

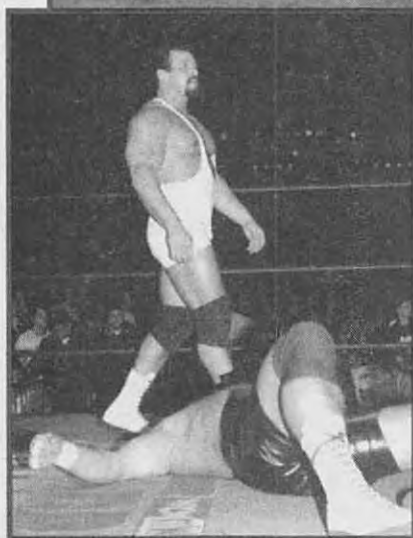
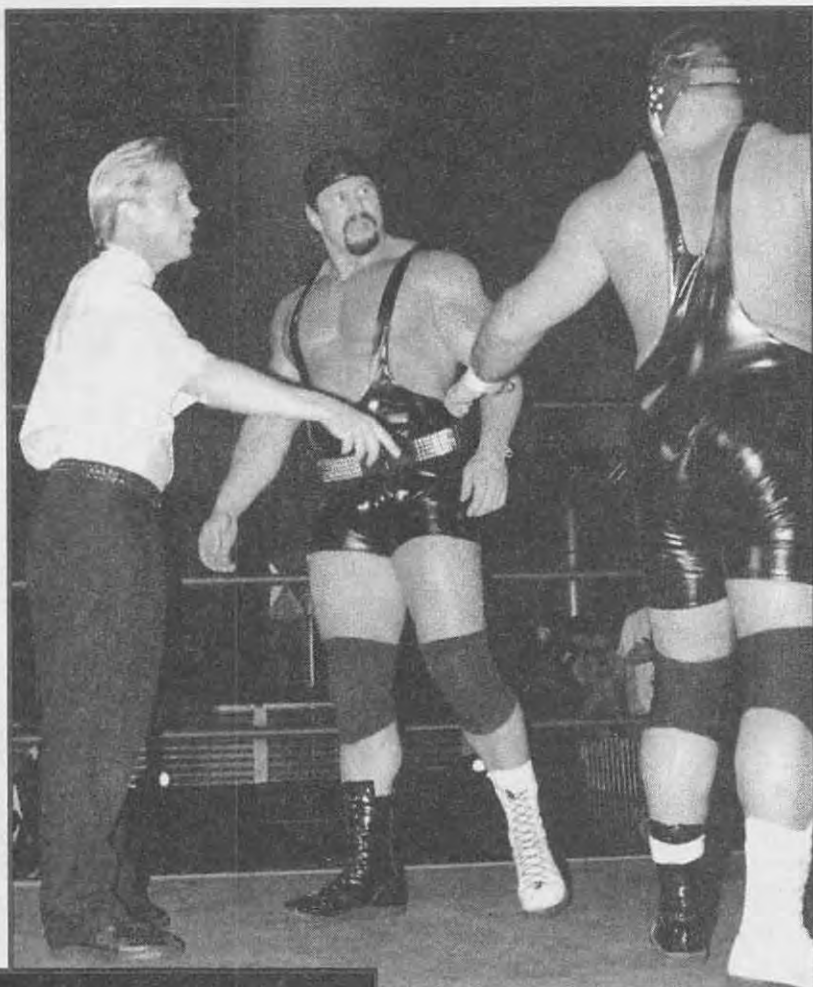
**A:** You know what? You can say that, and maybe you'd be right, but this is a lot more complicated than that. The NWO has gotten very strong. Me and Scott have had our differences, but I didn't think it was anything to be worried about. I love my brother. I still love my brother. I think he loves me, too, but something like this ... *[voice cracks]* it's not supposed to happen.

**Q:** *Do you need a glass of water?*

**A:** Just give me a second. Just a second ... This is very tough.

**Q:** *I can imagine.*

**A:** No, you can't imagine. You know, I keep hoping this isn't really happening. I keep hoping it's all a bad dream. I mean, we didn't have to be partners forever. I heard the rumors going



For weeks, we witnessed disagreements between the Steiner brothers that had never been played out in public before (above). Still, when their violent split took place at SuperBrawl (left), Rick was the most surprised person in the arena.

around. Everybody's heard the rumors about WCW downgrading the tag team division. So what. We could have gone on, on our own. He's a great wrestler. I'm a great wrestler. We could've helped each other. But joining the NWO? What's that all about?

**Q:** *I guess it's about money.*

**A:** No. I don't think so. It's about something else.

**Q:** *What then?*

**A:** I don't know. I keep going over this in my head. I don't sleep nights thinking about it, thinking about what might have happened. I don't know. Maybe Scott went crazy. Maybe he just forgot about his priorities. I mean, anything, we could have worked out anything. But Scott's never been one to take the easy way out. He's never done anything for money. I mean, what was the NWO offering? Easy street? A quick fix?

Friends? Money? Power? Heck, we've had all that, and we could've had it again. Sure, we've had the injuries. Lots of them. I had them. He had them. Bad. That bad back of his, I don't know how he got through it, but he worked hard and he came back. To do this, to sell out for the easy fix, just doesn't make any sense.

**Q:** According to insiders, the NWO paid Scott a contract somewhere in the seven-figures range, with most of the money up front.

**A:** Big deal. Chump change. We've made that kind of money before. Scott and me, we didn't need the money. We're fine. We're champions. We've had a great career. And that's another thing I don't understand, Scott just throwing about the belts the way he did. I remember he once said to me, "Rick, those belts, they're what we wrestle for. If you're not wrestling for the championship,

you might as well not bother wrestling." Well, he just took them and threw them away. What sense does that make?

**Q:** Rick, it sounds to me like you're asking a lot more questions than I could ever ask ...

**A:** Yeah, but I don't have the answers. Not a single one. I don't know why he did what he did, what could have come over him. I've tried to talk to him ...

**Q:** You mean you've called him?

**A:** Sure. I've called him and I've tried to talk to him in person, at the arenas.

**Q:** And what's happened?

**A:** Sometimes I leave a message. He never returns my calls. The few times I got him on the phone he kept saying, "Rick, I wasn't going to be bogged down." Bogged down by what? By being champions? By being the best tag team in the world? What was he talking about.

**Q:** What happens when you see him at the arenas.

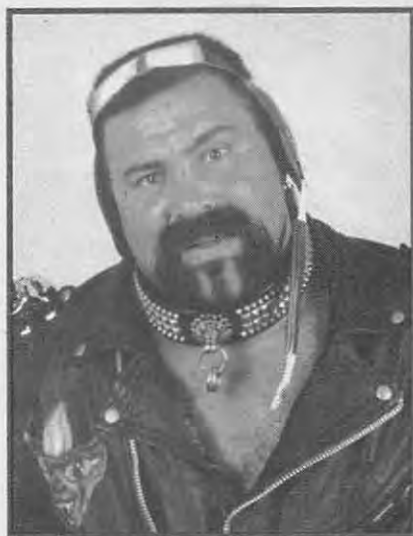
**A:** It's only happened once. I couldn't even get a word out. Those flunkies, Nash and Hall, were over in no time, pushing him away. They won't even let him talk. It's like they've brainwashed him.

**Q:** Maybe they have.

**A:** You know what? I have thought about that, but when did they do it? When did they have the chance? That's another thing I keep wondering about, when they got to him.

**Q:** There's always time.

**A:** Yeah, and they found it. They found the time. You know, they're the lowest of the lowest. There's nothing worse than the NWO. Now I understand. They stole my brother, but you know what? They're not going to



**"Scott's never been one to take the easy way out. He's never done anything for money. I mean, what was the NWO offering?"**

get me. Never. There's no price.

**Q:** That's refreshing to hear. But the question is: Will you get your brother back?

**A:** I don't know. I hope so. I have to think so. Scott's smart. He was always the leader. He knows what he's doing. Who knows, maybe he's just trying to infiltrate the NWO and he wants to keep it secret, even from me. I just wish I knew.

**Q:** But you'd take him back under any circumstances.

**A:** Yeah. He doesn't even have to say he's sorry.

**Q:** Would you wrestle him?

**A:** It depends. If I thought it would help me get him back, to knock some sense in him, then definitely.

**Q:** But he doesn't want to wrestle you.

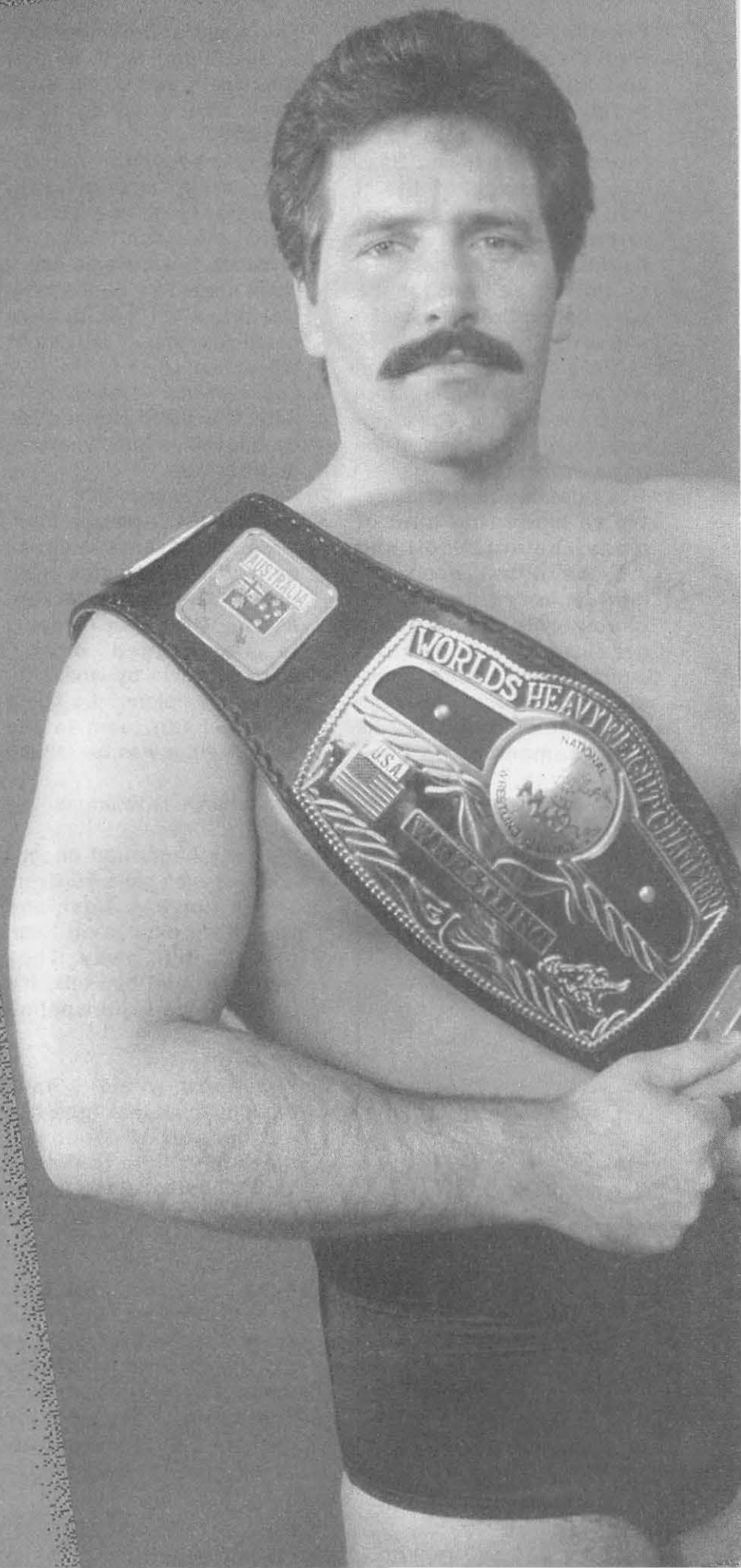
**A:** The way I see it, Bill, he does whatever the NWO tells him to do. That's the saddest part of all. □

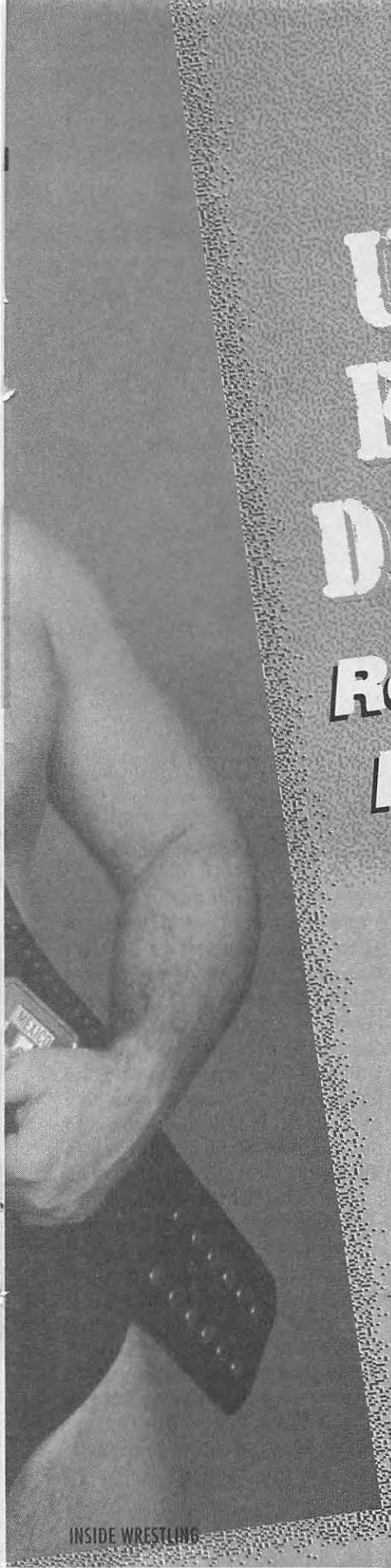


Rick has had several matches with NWO members, but the match most people are waiting for is Rick vs. Scott. If that would help get Scott back, Rick is all for it.



**NWA  
heavyweight  
champion  
Dan Severn is  
really a part-  
time champion,  
defending the  
belt only when  
he feels like it  
(which isn't  
often). But now  
Severn has a  
chance to bring  
new respect to  
the belt ...  
and himself**





# THE ULTIMATE FIGHT FOR DAN SEVERN

## **Regaining Respect For The NWA Title**

By Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HE QUESTION FOR Dan Severn has always been this: What are your priorities? The answer for Severn's fans has always been the following: It's hard to tell.

The two-time former UFC champion is undoubtedly one of the finest wrestlers in the world. While competing in the Ultimate Fighting Championships—and capturing his two UFC titles eight months apart—Severn also took time to win the NWA heavyweight title, way back in February 1995.

But the newest question for Severn is this: What have you done for us lately?

The question is being posed by NWA promoters and fans, who have become frustrated by Severn's reluctance to defend the NWA title on a



NWA champion Dan Severn dominates Franz Schumann at this year's NWA Eddie Gilbert Memorial Show in Philadelphia. It was a rare sight—the NWA champ competing on an NWA card.



Severn has been the target of a campaign by Jim Cornette to make the former UFC competitor more active in the wrestling ring. It was Cornette who brought Severn to the WWF.

regular basis. Because there is no 30-day rule in the NWA, Severn cannot be forced into regular title defenses. Too many NWA cards go on without an appearance by the federation's heavyweight champion. Severn's recent victory over Franz Schumann at the NWA's Eddie Gilbert Memorial Show in Philadelphia could hardly be considered a victory over top-flight competition.

The NWA heavyweight title, while certainly not vacant, has become dormant. Over a 12-month period, the champion defended the belt only a handful of times. NWA wrestlers are no longer vying for the heavyweight belt because they know title shots are few and far between.

Now, however, there is evidence that Severn is coming out of his cocoon and might be be-

coming a full-time champion. His appearance at a recent *Raw Is War* as a member of Jim Cornette's NWA group, though possibly disappointing to Severn's supporters, was an indication that Severn is finally ready to regularly rumble.

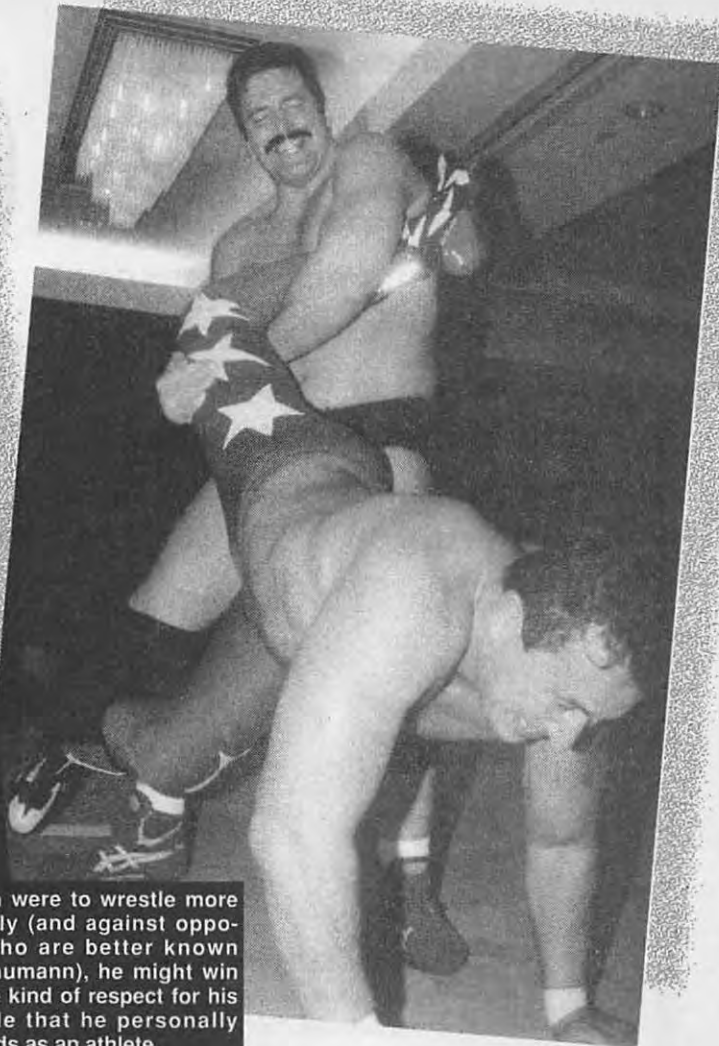
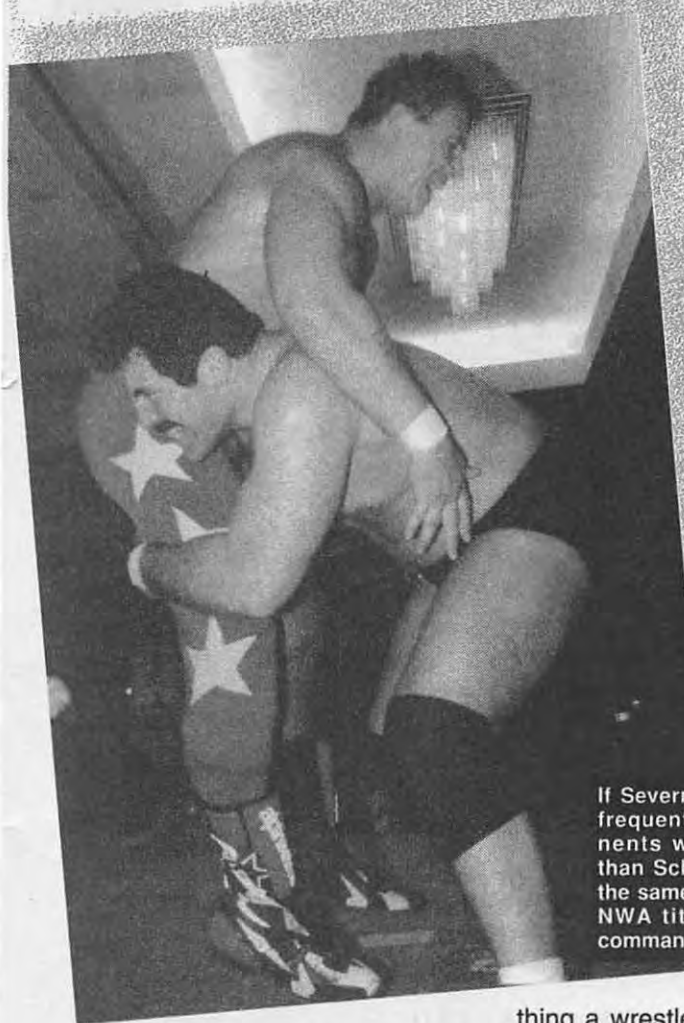
And in his victory over Flash Funk at a *Raw Is War* taping, Severn appeared to be enjoying himself in the ring. Afterward, he remarked to reporters that he liked "the glare of the TV lights" and "the reaction of the fans." The warm spotlight felt good to him.

"Every member of my group is going to wrestle," Cornette promised. "That's what the NWA is all about. He's not here for his good looks or to beat up some punks once in a while. He's here because he's the best wrestler in the NWA, and the best wrestler in the

NWA belongs with *me*."

Severn's first appearance at *Raw* was unremarkable. After Cornette's new Midnight Express defeated The Headbangers for the NWA tag team title, Cornette had Severn demonstrate some of his Ultimate Fighting moves on the losers. Severn did as he was told, performing a few suplexes and submission holds on the fallen 'Bangers, then left the ring. The fans, most of whom were unfamiliar with Severn, seemed only mildly impressed by the display.

But this isn't about whether Severn is a skilled wrestler; everybody knows he is. It's about a champion's respect. If Severn wants that kind of respect, he'll have to win it by restoring respect for the NWA title. It's a belt he should wear proudly. The WWF has offered him a chance to



If Severn were to wrestle more frequently (and against opponents who are better known than Schumann), he might win the same kind of respect for his NWA title that he personally commands as an athlete.

wrestle in the spotlight, and he should grab it. Rumors have circulated about Severn facing off against former UFC rival Ken Shamrock, who recently came close to winning the WWF Intercontinental title.

The mere act of the NWA champion stepping into the ring against a top contender to the WWF's I-C title would bring respect to the NWA. A victory by Severn would send the NWA's respect meter soaring. There's no doubt Severn has the ability to beat Shamrock; he's done it before in the UFC, and he can do it again.

Don't tell it to Shamrock, though.

"Severn's wasting his time," Shamrock said. "He did the worst

thing a wrestler can do, the worst thing *any* athlete can do: He got lazy. He doesn't want it anymore. You can tell. If those NWA people had any brains, which I doubt, they'd strip Severn of their title and give it to somebody who wants it."

Shamrock might have been baiting Severn. Certainly, there was a ring of truth to his words. Shamrock respects Severn. How couldn't he? Severn is an outstanding athlete, one of the best in the world. A lot of wrestling insiders feel that if Severn gave it a complete effort, he could be a world champion one day.

The problem is, Severn has yet to answer the most important questions of all: Is his heart in professional wrestling? Is this what he wants?

The map to wrestling stardom

is clearly laid out for Severn: Defend the NWA heavyweight title on a regular basis. Give shots to top WWF wrestlers. Maybe win a major WWF title. And on into the wrestling record books.

The map is laid out, but Severn (so far) has shown no inclination to follow the trail.

"I have to do things the way I need to do them, when the time is right," Severn said. "Sure, I think people respect the NWA heavyweight title, and they respect the man who's wearing it. I heard what Shamrock said about me, and I don't really care. This is my life, my career. I'm going to do as I please."

He always has. He always will.

Meanwhile, Jim Cornette is trying to change Severn's will.

... which might be the ultimate challenge of them all. □



**The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One**

# ONE O



**"How will beating up on an opponent after the match give me killer instinct?"**

**—Chavo Guerrero Jr.**

**W**RESTLING HAS SEEN more than its share of family feuds in the past few years, but the relationship between Eddy Guerrero and Chavo Guerrero Jr. is markedly different than that of Owen and Bret Hart or Rick and Scott Steiner. Rather than being a case of jealousy bubbling to the surface between brothers, in this case it is an uncle trying to "make a man" out of his nephew.

When Eddy started breaking rules, he lost the respect of his family by betraying their proud scientific heritage. He also started winning title belts.

Chavo, meanwhile, has remained within the confines of the rules and done his family proud. Still, he has repeatedly been bested by his hostile uncle and remains out of the WCW title picture.

Chavo again tried to make his uncle see the error of his ways and challenged him to a match with an unusual stipulation: If Chavo were to win, Eddy would return to his former scientific self. If Eddy won, Chavo would do as Eddy said. Eddy won.

Now the two are bound together by a verbal agreement. Their personal ideologies may clash, their sense of sportsmanship may disagree, but neither man wants to be the one who caves to the other's wishes.

With such hostility between the two reluctant teammates, it only made sense to ask them to come together and air their differences ... "One On One."

**EDDY GUERRERO:** So the guys from *INSIDE WRESTLING* say there's something you want to say to me. What is this? Is it like a Jerry Springer episode? "I'm Living in My Uncle's Shadow, But I'm Afraid to Tell Him to His Face." Or maybe "I'm Too Stubborn For My Own Good And It's Standing In The Way Of My Success." Either way, I think you'd be uniquely qualified to appear.

**CHAVO GUERRERO:** It's going to be like this, *eh*, Eddy? Let's put the sarcasm and attitude away, just for 10 minutes. How about you and I talk things out, once and for all, in front of the whole world? You owe it to your fans.

**EG:** I what?!

**CG:** You heard me. Don't forget, I'm family. I know how much you loved hearing the fans cheer for you. Let's drop the whining and talk things out.

**EG:** I'm listening.

**CG:** You turned your back on the fans almost a year ago. Now here you are, without a belt, and you're trying to drag me down with you. Why are you so caught up in trying to turn me into you instead of concentrating on your own career? You know I don't want to be like you, but you still hound me to attack opponents and break the rules. Why can't you just let me be myself? Then maybe you can get back to being yourself.

# N ONE



**"You are a Guerrero. You're too talented to let your skills go to waste."  
—Eddy Guerrero**

**EG:** Are you done yet? Or are you going to stay up on that soapbox for a while longer?

**CG:** I'm gonna ...

**EG:** Why don't you let your lowly—and winning—uncle have his say? Chavo, I've explained it to you many times. I am dedicated to making you a winning wrestler. More than that, I am dedicated to making you a man.

**CG:** And you're going to make me a man by forcing me to take shortcuts to get a few tainted wins? What's more important, Eddy? Taking the low road to try to get victories or live up to the legacy of your family name? Doesn't the name "Guerrero" still mean anything to you?

**EG:** Of course it does. Guerrero, as in Eddy Guerrero, means legend. Guerrero, as in Hector or Mando or your daddy Chavo, means loser. You walk through the crowd at any WCW show and ask fans the first thing that comes to their mind when you say "Guerrero." I guarantee that they're not going to be talking about Hector or your papa.

**CG:** Yeah, they'll be laughing about how my uncle threw his career away.

**EG:** Chavo, don't you realize that I'm doing this for you? I'm taking you under my wing and I'm going to turn you into a champion. I know it's tough to stray from the straight and narrow path that the family has brainwashed

you into, but it's what you've got to do to make it to the top of this business.

**CG:** Eddy, deep down you know I still respect you. You taught me everything I know. Ever since I can remember, you, my father, Mando, and Hector have instilled in me a strong respect for the rules of wrestling and a sense of sportsmanship. What you're doing is telling me to go against everything I've ever believed, even to betray my own family.

**EG:** Developing a killer instinct is not betraying the family, Chavo. It is continuing the winning tradition you are so proud of. Look around you, Chavo. Who's at the top of the ratings in WCW? The NWO has all the power. Chris Jericho finally clawed his way to the top by giving up on the fans. Even WCW's savior Sting spent a year sneak-attacking people and bashing them with baseball bats. Wrestling has changed since the days of our relatives. If you aren't willing to adapt to the new environment, you're going to spend the rest of your days opening cards in matches against Prince Iaukea. Believe me, I know.

**CG:** How will beating up on an opponent after the match give me killer instinct? That only proves that you're a coward and you're not confident in your abilities.

**EG:** That's your father talking. After you win a match over, say, Psicosis or Dean Malenko, go ahead and take out the trash. That gets attention. People start talking, your opponent wants a rematch, and you do the same thing again. That gets the promoters' attention and before you know it, you've got a title shot on your hands.

**CG:** Damn it, Eddy. You're asking a lot of me. Tell me, are you truly happy with your career now? Was it worth it to throw everything away?

**EG:** You are a Guerrero. You're too talented to let your skills go to waste. Imagine what we could do together. We could be the tag team champions of the world. You could win any belt you want, and you'll have me watching your back. Eddie and Chavo Jr. will be together again.

**CG:** It sickens me that I'm actually considering this. What you stand for goes against everything I believe. I don't know if I could respect myself even if I won the World title by cheating. It's not the way I've dreamed of winning a title.

**EG:** And have you dreamed of being screwed over by matchmakers? Have you dreamed of sitting on the sidelines and watching Lex Luger, The Giant, Sting, and Hollywood Hogan, guys whose combined arsenal consists a total of five or six moves, get all the title shots?

**CG:** (pauses) Okay. Eddy, I want to work with you. You are my uncle and I love you. We're going to disagree, but I'll try to work alongside you. Maybe I can change your mind along the way.

**EG:** Forget about changing my mind. Just listen to me and become a champion. It's about time to usher in a brand new era of Guerrero dominance. □



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(Continued from page 5)

**YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!**

At one time, WCW imported talent from Mexico and Japan on a regular basis, but the influx of international stars has slowed considerably in recent weeks. Meanwhile, the WWF has brought in several Japanese and Mexican wrestlers, especially in the light heavyweight division.

WCW has become stagnant. Every week, Nitro and Thunder promise a title defense or similar main event, but the ending is always the same: The NWO runs in, and fans litter the ring with soda and beer.

The talent in WCW might be more impressive on paper, but what good is talent if you don't use it properly? At least there are some interesting surprises on Raw (even though I don't agree with the content). I think it's just a matter of time before the balance of power between the two federations swings in the WWF's favor. Wake up, Eric Bischoff!

MONICA SWAIN  
Lansing, MI

**CHYNA RULES**

Since Shawn Michaels cannot carry the ball anymore, and "Triple-H" isn't talented enough to do things right, I think Chyna should be the leader of De-Generation X. If it weren't for her, neither one of those

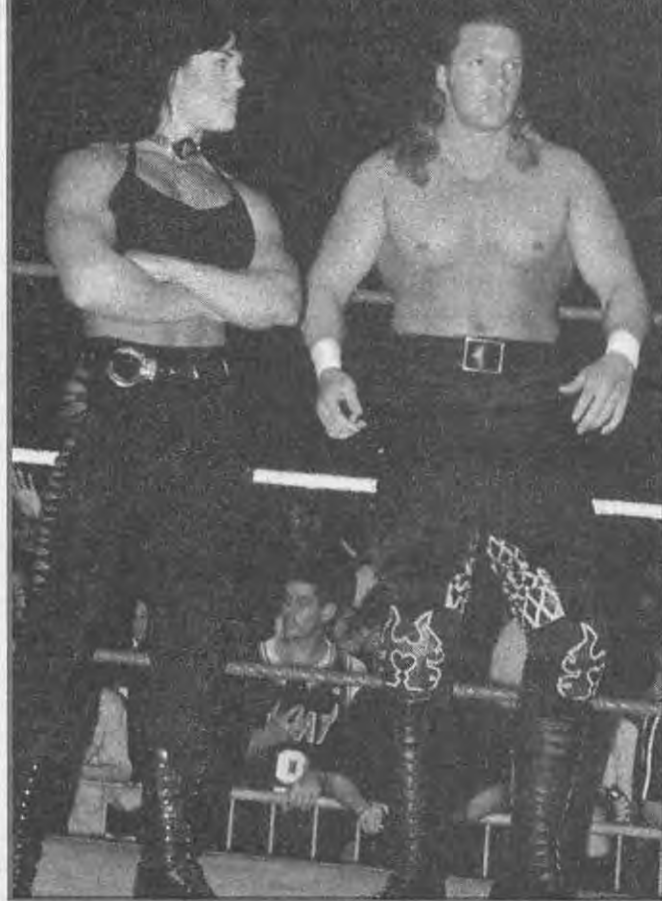
buffoons would have amounted to anything. After all, it was her interference that allowed them to beat superior athletes like Owen Hart.

Syxx and The New Age Outlaws are just no-talent punks who are looking for a free ride on the coattails of what Chyna has already done.

If Chyna has any sense, and I'm sure she does, she will take over DX. Or else dump those losers.

FRANK D'AMATO  
Lawnside, NJ □

Chyna looks like the picture of confidence standing next to "Triple-H." Frank D'Amato would like to see her take over as leader of DeGeneration X.



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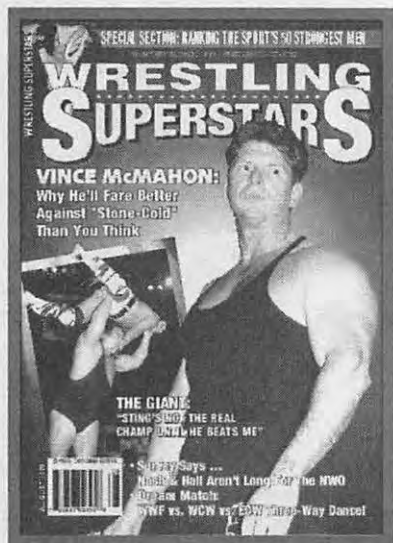
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# This Month In...

## WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



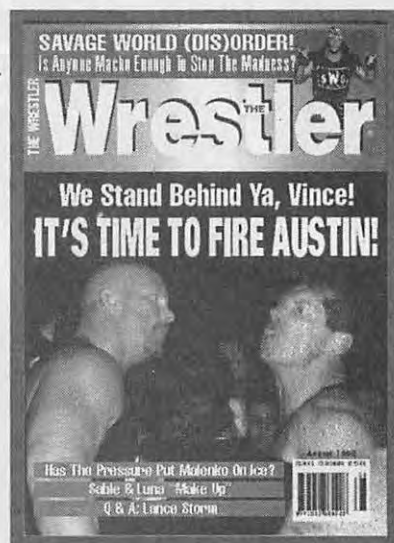
A lot of people didn't think **STEVE AUSTIN** would beat **SHAWN MICHAELS** for the WWF World title at WrestleMania XIV, but he did so convincingly. The toughest fight of "Stone-Cold's" life might be still to come.

We'll let you know why an Austin-**VINCE McMAHON** match won't be as one-sided as you'd think ... Who is the strongest man in wrestling? We'll not only tell you that—we'll tell you who the 50 strongest are ... **SCOTT HALL** and **KEVIN NASH** may have been the founders of the NWO, but we have reason to believe that their days in that powerful organization are numbered

All this—and much more—  
in the August 1998 issue of  
*Wrestling Superstars*

**NOW ON SALE!**

## THE Wrestler



Can **RANDY SAVAGE** really take over control of the NWO from **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN**? Is anyone "macho" enough to stop him? What would a Savage-led NWO be like? We should find out the answers to these questions soon ... We don't like saying this, but it something that just has to be done. Go ahead, **VINCE McMAHON**: Fire **STEVE AUSTIN**! ... What did **DEAN MALENKO** mean when he said he was going home after suffering another frustrating loss at Uncensored? Did the pressure get to him? We'll tell you what happened to him and what he's doing to try to get back on the right track

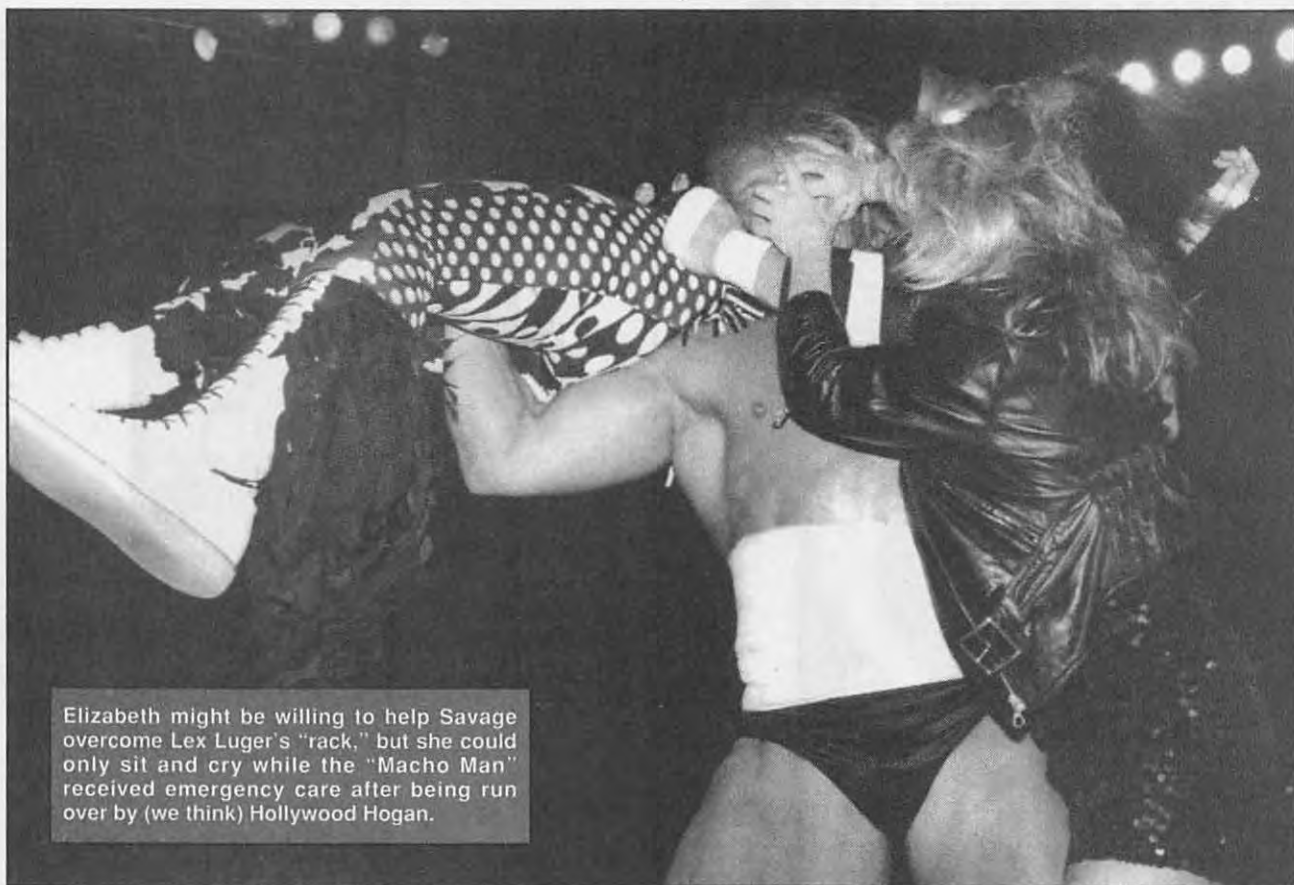
All this—and much more—  
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## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



Elizabeth might be willing to help Savage overcome Lex Luger's "rack," but she could only sit and cry while the "Macho Man" received emergency care after being run over by (we think) Hollywood Hogan.

receptionist would patiently say, "Don't worry, ma'am. When the doctor is ready, he'll come out and see you." And each time, Elizabeth wasn't comforted by these words. She just went on crying.

Elizabeth did not strike me as a woman who feared for the health of her meal ticket. She struck me as a woman who feared for the health of her friend, business partner, companion. It was touching. Elizabeth's behavior over the past few years has not been touching. This was touching. And there wasn't a TV camera around to record it. That's what made it best of all.

Finally, after about an hour, Elizabeth turned to me and said, "Do you think you could find out what's going on?"

"If they didn't tell you, they're not going to tell me," I said.

"But you're a reporter. Don't they have to tell you?"

"No. Besides, you're family. They'll tell you first."

"I'm not family," Elizabeth said. "Not anymore."

"But you're as close to him as anyone."

Hearing that, she nodded her head and cried some more.

Twenty minutes later, the doctor came out and asked Elizabeth whether she'd like to see "your husband." Elizabeth didn't bother to correct the doctor. She just followed his instructions. I waited. She emerged after an hour, still crying but with some good news.

"The doctor says he's going to be okay," she said. "Nothing too serious. That's what I was worried about, you know. Randy talked to me and told me he's going to get

whoever did this to him. He thinks it was Hogan."

"It probably was," I said.

"I don't care," Elizabeth said. "I don't care who it was. I just want him to be okay. That's all that matters to me."

"You know," she added, "we've been through a lot together. But we still care about each other."

"I know that," I said. "I can see that."

But for the life of me, I couldn't understand what had torn Savage and Elizabeth apart. What had forced them to divorce. It's been said that the strongest couples stay together despite adversity. Savage and Elizabeth have been through it all. They're still together. Just not in the way that they had once hoped they would be. It really makes you wonder. □

## Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

off with all kinds of cheap Hogan merchandise. I actually know people who enjoyed *Suburban Commando*.

I also know people who liked *Titanic*. Go figure.

By the way, what's with those WCW TV bootlickers—I'm talking about one bootlicker in particular, Tony Schiavone—constantly referring to Sting as "the greatest heavyweight champion of our time"?

Sting's three previous WCW World title reigns lasted six months, five months, and six days. As of this writing, he's been champion for two months.

Now, I hate Hulk Hogan, but there's no doubt that Hogan has been a better and longer champion in "our time." The same holds true for Ric Flair and Bret Hart, both of whom were world champions in "our time."

But the Wrestler of the Century is Bruno Sammartino, whose WWF World title reigns lasted nearly eight years and more than three years. Hogan was WWF champion for more than four years once.

By what measure is Sting the greatest world champion of "our time"?

I'll grant them this: Sting is the greatest WCW World champion of March and April 1998.

You know what? I'm beginning to not like Tony Schiavone too much, either.

\*\*\*

Japanese wrestling legend Antonio Inoki, 55, won his retirement match on April 4 by defeating Don Frye in front of about 70,000 fans at the Tokyo Dome.

Apparently, Inoki was thrilled that boxing legend Muhammad Ali was in attendance for the match.



Japanese legend Antonio Inoki grinds out a victory over Don Frye in his farewell match at the Tokyo Dome. Rosenbaum will reserve praise for the 55-year-old wrestler until he is sure Inoki is retired.

You might remember—although it would be better if you had forgotten—that in 1976, Ali and Inoki battled—actually "battled" is too strong a word—in a stupefyingly boring 15-round boxer vs. wrestler match that ended in a draw.

If I were Inoki, I would have wanted Ali as far away from the Tokyo Dome as possible on retirement night. Any association between Ali and Inoki should be wiped from our memories forever. That match was a disaster. A ripoff. I still want my money back.

Boy, am I in a bad mood. What has come over me? Just this: I don't believe Inoki has really retired. I think we'll see him in the ring again. Wrestlers never retire. They always come back. You could put together a pretty impressive federation made up entirely of wrestlers who retired and then went back on their words.

Inoki had wrestled for 38 years. I am 38 years old. This doesn't make me feel old, but it should make Inoki feel very old. □

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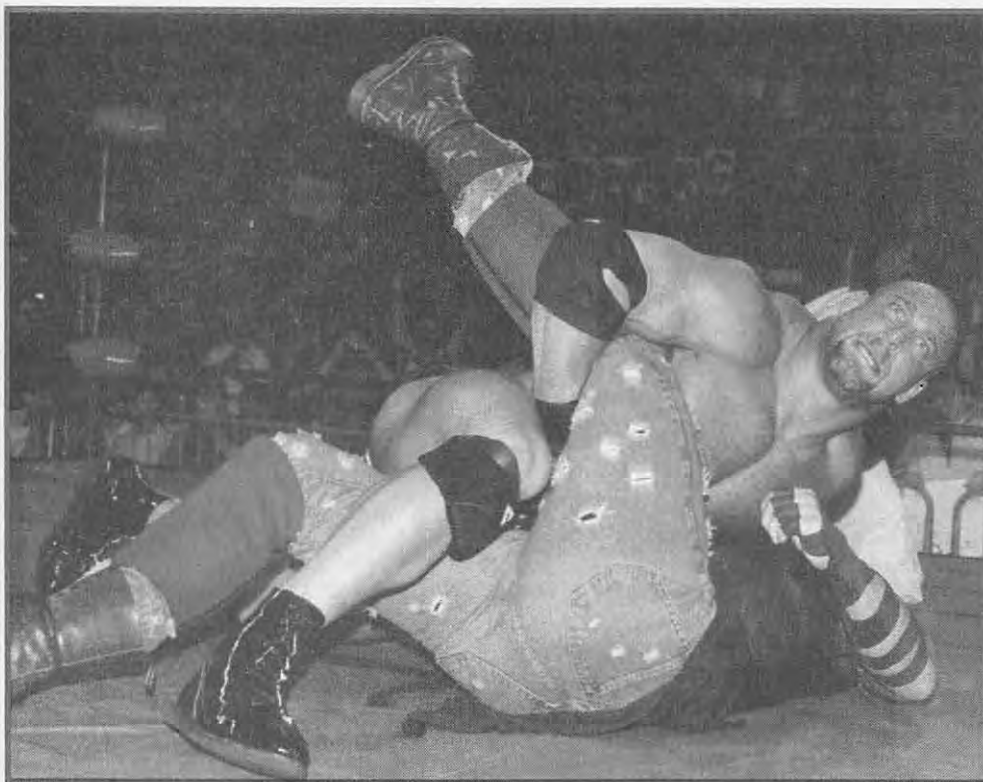
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## The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Bill Goldberg (shown pinning Hammer) could have been one of the greatest bad guys to enter this sport in years. It makes me sick to see him soak up the cheers he hears around the country now.

saddest case, and perhaps the catalyst for my angst. His look resembles Austin's, but I held out hope that he would resist the calling of an all-out sellout. Goldberg racked up an impressive winning streak that no rookie will ever match. He was the most talked about newcomer since a certain 7'4" goof darkened wrestling's doorstep.

But even Goldberg weakened easily enough. The T-shirt defeated him where the most talented wrestler could not. Now Goldberg is just one of the many unwashed, selling his very soul to the gods of wrestling merchandising. Funny, I swear I saw a spine somewhere in that muscular physique once.

Two basic things are happening in this rulebreaker renaissance. First, the bad guys are transforming themselves into

good guys at a record pace. The minute they become dominant and successful, the fans start to notice, and then the promoters start to see dollar signs. The wrestler, seduced by money and opportunity, usually jumps at the opportunity. The next thing you know, they are wearing shirts and hats emblazoned with their name and slogan of the week.

Second, any fan favorite who wants to jump on the bandwagon and go the bad route does it without thinking twice. Shawn Michaels saw how Bret Hart continued to be cheered by some even after he told the American people to take a flying leap. So Michaels, in a desperate attempt to jumpstart his own sagging career, returned to the rulebreaking ranks. But Bret Hart was just as, dare I say, bad. He turned just

because he heard Steve Austin getting cheered.

I remember pulling up an old column by Dan Shocket right after Tommy Rich, for so long a beloved fan favorite, had turned bad. While all the other editors and writers reviled Rich and expected the rulebreaking columnist to embrace him, Shocket shockingly took a wait-and-see approach. He wrote about the character of a good rulebreaker and the dedication it requires to be one. This was an elite group that not just anyone could join by changing his hair color or altering his wrestling style.

That's the problem.

Anyone can get in, and too many are getting out. Rulebreaking is becoming a haven for wannabes. There are few with true convictions, few who can truly live without fan acceptance. That requires some form of vertebra (see Bill Goldberg). Fan acceptance is like a torrential rain that is dousing many a fine parade.

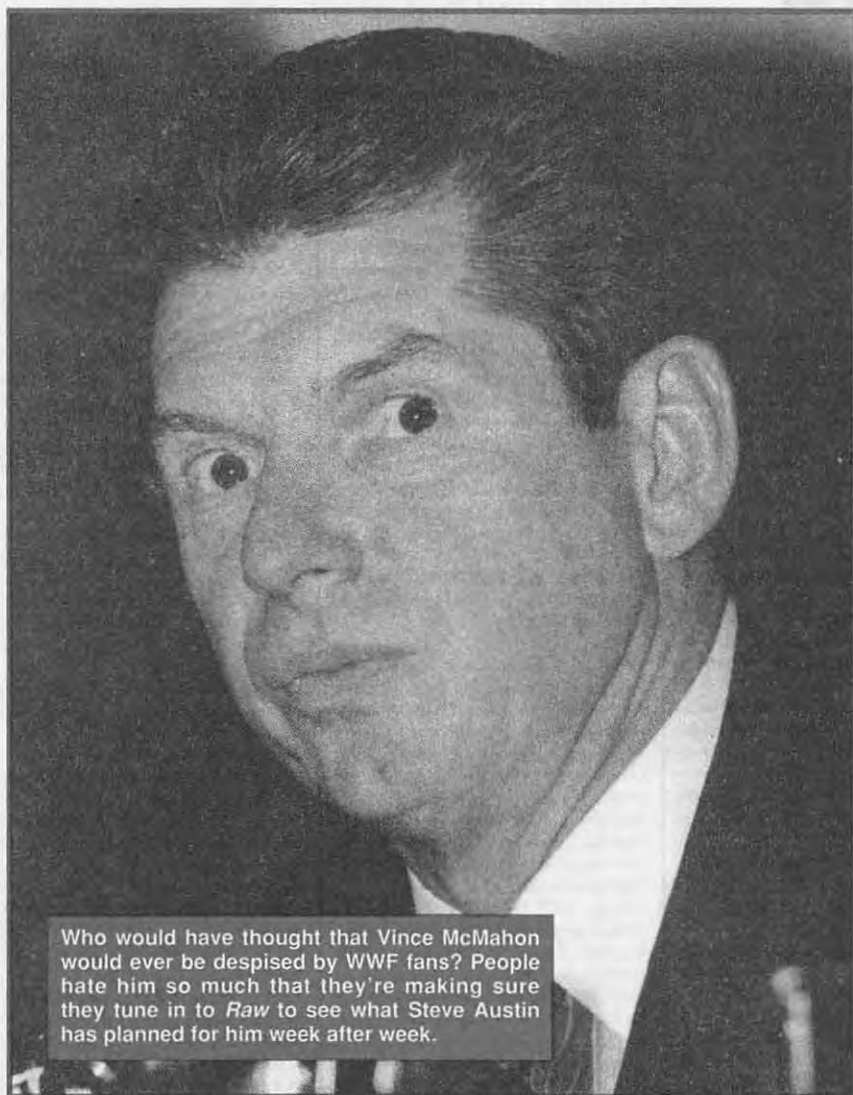
So look upon this as my unofficial cease-and-desist order. The bad guys of wrestling do not need your cheers. They need your bile and venom, for that is what gives them fuel to live on and to break rules another day. Same for me. I don't want letters of praise. I want your disdain. I want your indifference. I want you to hate me because I hate your favorites. So on behalf of the true, blue rulebreakers of professional wrestling...

Get off of our cloud.



## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Who would have thought that Vince McMahon would ever be despised by WWF fans? People hate him so much that they're making sure they tune in to *Raw* to see what Steve Austin has planned for him week after week.

He is now a hated man who unfairly singles out the most popular wrestlers in the WWF. Instead of reigning in DX or disciplining The Nation of Domination, Vince is, for lack of a better term, picking on "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin. He practically forced Austin to give up the Intercontinental title and is now openly opposed to "Stone-Cold" holding the World title. He is butting his hair helmet with Austin's bald pate. Guess who is getting most of the fan support in this one.

In this situation, you could argue that "Vince screwed Vince." Over

the past year, McMahon has been in the unusual position of a runner-up. WCW's *Nitro* has consistently beaten his *Raw* week after week in the ratings. Save for the two-plus months during which Mike Tyson was a regular on WWF TV, the mainstream coverage that once belonged to the WWF had been transferred to WCW, as Hulk Hogan, "Diamond" Dallas Page, and The Giant appeared on network talk shows and MTV.

But wrestling fans, whether they cheer the good or the bad, always root for the underdog. They rooted

for guys like The Kid and Barry Horowitz. Bill Goldberg was never expected to be as dominant as he now is, but as he racked up win after win, fans began to worship the ground he was sweating on. He is one of the fastest-rising superstars in the history of this sport.

Vince had that underdog role sewn up. He was the lone gun, the mom-and-pop wrestling operation facing off with the big, bad corporation known as Time Warner. He did not own television networks and did not have the vast resources (nee Ted Turner's wallet) to bring in all the major stars. Bischoff was openly mocking him in online chats. McMahon was the unsung hero. Now he is anything but that.

But then I think of how masterful a promoter McMahon has been through the years. After all, as his popularity slides into the mud, the WWF's popularity is growing. For the first time since June 10, 1996, *Raw* beat *Nitro* in a head-to-head confrontation on the night McMahon almost got into it with Austin. Since, these promotions seem to live and die by their Monday night ratings, the WWF could officially say it has momentum. Is Vince making himself the sacrificial lamb?

Is there a method to his madness? After all, if he does not wish to have Austin as his champion—and it is clear that he does not like Austin at all—he could just strip him of the title. But Vince knows better than that. A titleless Austin was a ratings boon. Austin as champion might yield even greater numbers. It makes me wonder. Could it be that for the sake of ratings, in order to return to the number-one position, and just to beat WCW and its leader, is Vince intentionally screwing Vince?

Stay tuned.





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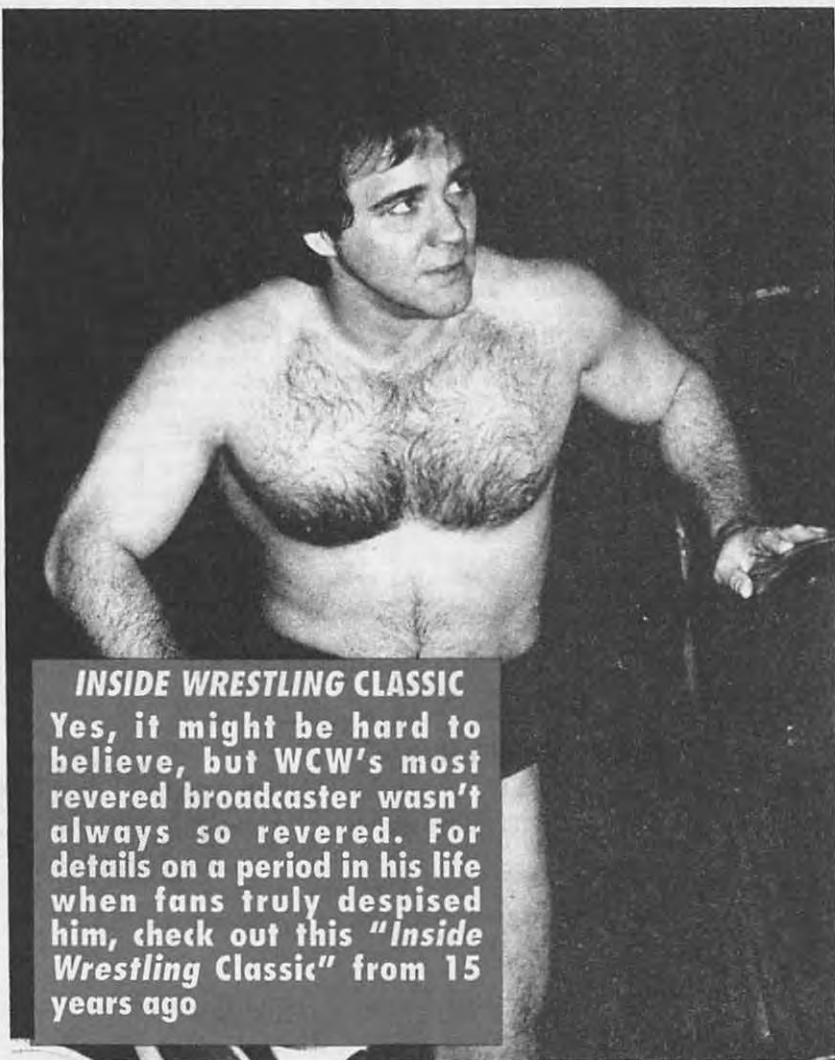
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# LARRY ZBYSZKO BECOMES WRESTLING'S MOST HATED MAN... IN RECORD TIME!



## INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC

Yes, it might be hard to believe, but WCW's most revered broadcaster wasn't always so revered. For details on a period in his life when fans truly despised him, check out this "Inside Wrestling Classic" from 15 years ago

**"WE DON'T WANT to hear it!"**

Larry Zbyszko looks over the fans in the television studio and laughs. He's grown accustomed to this chant, hearing it every time he opens his mouth for a television interview. The fans don't bother him. As he's said often enough, "They can shout all they want. I've got the microphone."

So Larry shouts back at the fans how he's the National champion and there's nothing they can do about it. He also speaks of his disdain for the fans, repeats his refusal to wrestle on television, and ensures himself winning this year's "Guest Most Wanted to Leave" award.

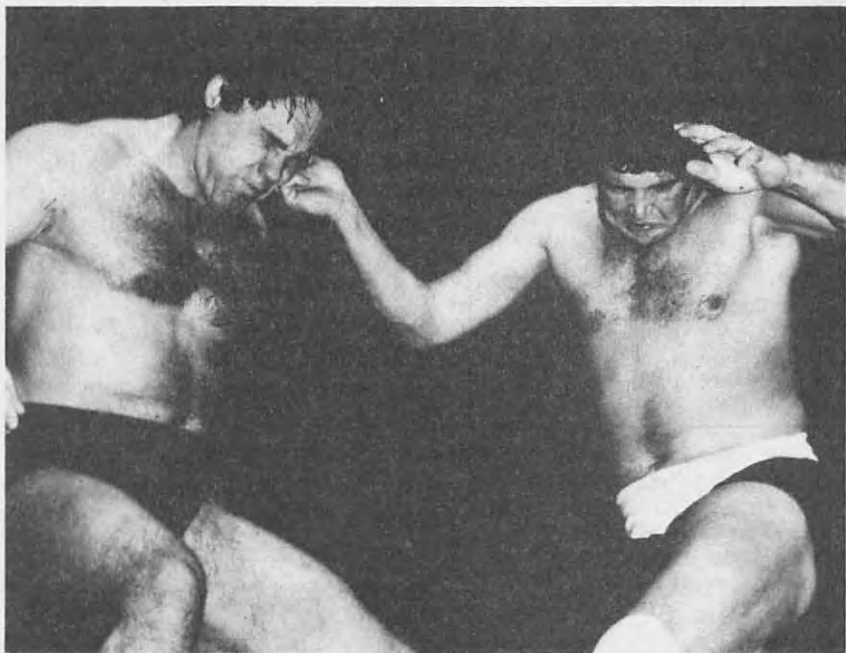
While there are many obnoxious wrestlers, Larry Zbyszko has quickly become the most hated man in wrestling. It isn't easy to be so reviled in so short a time. It takes real talent; a gift. When it comes to being despised, Larry is the most gifted man in wrestling.

It wasn't always that way. There was a time when Larry was among the most beloved of all wrestlers. He was trained by Bruno Sammar-

**The story line sounds familiar at first: popular wrestler, unhappy with his career, turns to the world of rulebreaking. But Larry Zbyszko doesn't do the things he does for personal reward. Zbyszko's goal is the ruination of the wrestling establishment—a goal that has brought him the contempt of fans and fellow wrestlers alike**



Zbyszko maneuvers Johnny Rich into the abdominal stretch (above left) and then adds leverage to the painful hold by grabbing his helpless opponent's trunks (left). Larry flings a weary Rich across the ring (above right). Johnny stuns Zbyszko with an uppercut to the cheek (below).



tino, and many people assumed he'd be the one to take Sammartino's mantle. Then a rift between Sammartino and Zbyszko drove Larry into the arms of the rule-breakers. Soon he had made himself one of the cleverest rule-breakers around.

Then Larry's genius for infuriating fans blossomed. When Killer Brooks pinned Paul Orndorff to win

the National championship, Larry bought the title from him. Larry didn't win it, but he had all the privileges of being champion. One of those privileges was to keep the tremendous sums of money that a champion commands. As a business deal, it was a brilliant investment. As behavior for a professional athlete, it was a disgrace.

That was only the beginning.

Wherever Larry went, he made sure to anger the fans. Those not enraged noticed his delight in driving the fans into a lather. Goading them on, Larry played them like a violin. He knew where to hit, and he assaulted repeatedly.

Eventually, it began to occur to some that Larry was more interested in infuriating fans than in

Photos by Emmy Yates & Brian Hildebrand

INSIDE WRESTLING



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wrestling. His behavior really was aimed at the fans and the wrestling establishment; he really wasn't concerned about his opponents. Gaining victories was only a way to keep the powerful in a state of fury.

Larry doesn't admit this, but neither does he deny it. "When I was young and stupid, the honor of wrestling meant a lot to me," he said. "I can't count the batterings I took rather than get down to a so-called rulebreaker's level. My vacations were spent in rehabilitation, resting torn muscles and wrenched joints. I thought the pain was worth it, though, because I was an honorable wrestler. People respected me.

"Then I had a falling out with Sammartino. It was personal thing that spilled over into our professional lives. At any time—for a single instant—did the fans try to see my side of it? You bet your life they didn't! Instead, they turned on me as if I'd betrayed them. They didn't even want to understand. No, Bruno can do no wrong. All that I had done for them meant squat. At a very tough time in my life, I was without a friend. I kept thinking of all the pain I'd suffered, all the opportunities I'd missed. For longer than I care to admit, I hated myself for my stupidity. From now on, I owe wrestling nothing."

It doesn't take a seer to see the cruelty in Larry's cunning. He's aiming to topple the wrestling



Zbyszko exerts tremendous pressure on Ric's left shoulder.

establishment. He doesn't want to replace it with himself; this isn't ambition. He just wants to see it destroyed. His lust for catastrophe is the driving force behind his strange and cynical behavior. He wants others to suffer as he suffered.

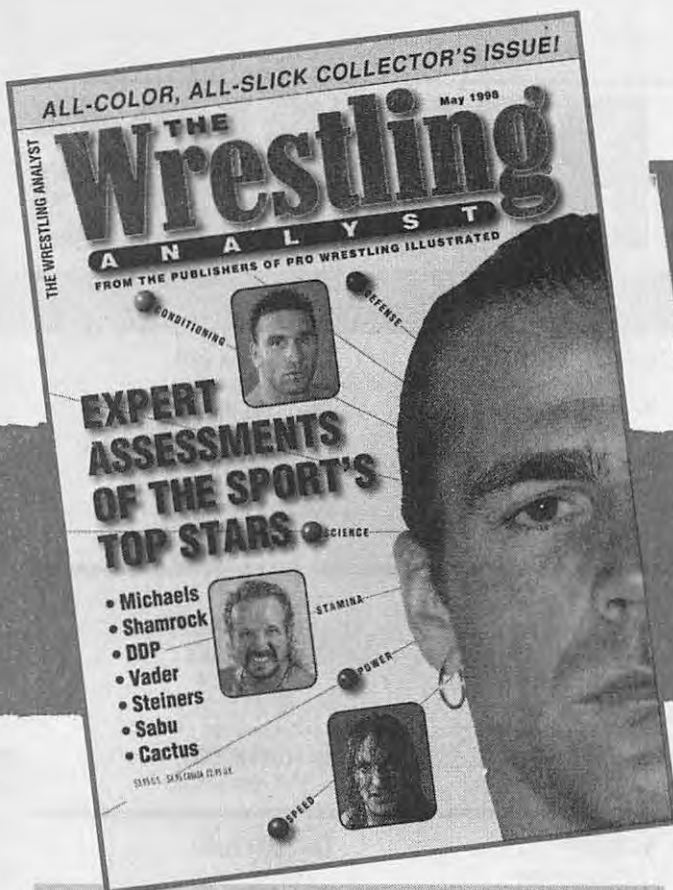
Zbyszko is succeeding beyond his wildest dreams. He has the entire NWA demanding his head without having any idea how to get it. Larry has danced around the rules, flouted his former beliefs, and is financially more successful than ever. His fame has never been so widespread, and the purses he now commands make his former earnings seem paltry. One hesitates to draw a moral from his outlaw tactics.

Larry's former friends are angered and saddened by the turn of events. Tony Garea, once Larry's tag team partner, admits, "The Larry Zbyszko I knew is dead. I don't know him anymore. Something snapped inside him and destroyed all the honor. He makes me sick now."

Larry is sickening to most people who believe in the sanctity of sport. In a recent match against Johnny Rich, Larry cruelly assaulted his young foe. There was neither art nor courage in this attack; it was a bully taking advantage of a weakened foe. At the end of the contest, Larry preened with pride. It was a revolting exhibition of wrestling conceit.

Those who know Larry best, however, hold out hope. They remember the young, idealistic grappler who once thrilled arenas. They recall his almost religious belief in truth and heroism. And they mourn the absence of that man as much as they condemn the man he has become. Some refuse to believe Larry will return to them. As one said, "It's too painful to believe Larry will always remain the rat he is today."

INSIDE WRESTLING



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## TOP 15

- 1—STEVE AUSTIN  
(2) WWF World champion
- 2—STING  
(1) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 3—THE UNDERTAKER  
(8) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

- 4—HOLLYWOOD HOGAN  
(-) WCW World champion
- 5—MITSUOHARU MISAWA  
(-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
- 6—BILL GOLDBERG  
(-) U.S. heavyweight champion
- 7—LEX LUGER  
(10) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

- 8—ROCKY MAIVIA  
(11) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 9—OWEN HART  
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
- 10—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY  
(13) WWF European champion
- 11—BOOKER T  
(12) WCW TV champion

- 12—ROB VAN DAM  
(-) ECW TV champion
- 13—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE  
(4) No. 6 contender: WCW World title
- 14—TATSUMI FUJINAMI  
(-) IWGP heavyweight champion
- 15—CHRIS JERICO  
(7) WCW cruiserweight champion

## WCW

- 1—HOLLYWOOD HOGAN  
(-) 275, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—BILL GOLDBERG  
(10) 270, Tulsa, OK
- 3—STING  
(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA

- 4—LEX LUGER  
(6) 265, Chicago, IL
- 5—BOOKER T  
(5) 250, Harlem, NY
- 6—CHRIS JERICO  
(4) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia
- 7—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE  
(2) 260, Tampa, FL

- 8—RANDY SAVAGE  
(7) 237, Sarasota, FL
- 9—KEVIN NASH  
(-) 356, Detroit, MI
- 10—THE GIANT  
(9) 430, parts unknown
- 11—BRET HART  
(8) 235, Calgary, Alberta

- 12—RAVEN  
(11) 235, Short Hills, NJ
- 13—RICK STEINER  
(14) 248, Detroit, MI
- 14—SCOTT STEINER  
(-) 251, Detroit, MI
- 15—CURT HENNING  
(-) 235, Minneapolis, MN

## WWF

- 1—STEVE AUSTIN  
(3) 252, Victoria, TX
- 2—ROCKY MAIVIA  
(2) 272, Pearl City, HI
- 3—THE UNDERTAKER  
(5) 328, parts unknown

- 4—OWEN HART  
(-) 227, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY  
(6) 279, Greenwich, CT
- 6—DUDE LOVE  
(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 7—JEFF JARRETT  
(10) 230, Nashville, TN

- 8—KANE  
(7) 345, parts unknown
- 9—FAAROOQ  
(-) 291, Perry, GA
- 10—KEN SHAMROCK  
(4) 235, San Bernardino, CA
- 11—GOLDUST  
(-) 254, Austin, TX

- 12—MARC MERO  
(11) 235, Buffalo, NY
- 13—DAN SEVERN  
(-) 265, Detroit, MI
- 14—TAKA MICHINOKU  
(8) 169, Marioka, Japan
- 15—STEVE BLACKMAN  
(13) 245, Annville, PA

## ECW

- 1—SHANE DOUGLAS  
(1) 240, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—ROB VAN DAM  
(9) 240, Battle Creek, MI
- 3—BAM BAM BIGELOW  
(2) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

- 4—AL SNOW  
(7) 232, Lima, OH
- 5—SABU  
(8) 225, Bombay
- 6—JUSTIN CREDIBLE  
(10) 225, Waterbury, CT
- 7—TOMMY DREAMER  
(4) 245, Yonkers, NY

- 8—2 COLD SCORPIO  
(6) 222, Denver, CO
- 9—LANCE STORM  
(13) 234, Calgary, Alberta
- 10—CHRIS CANDIDO  
(11) 226, Carteret, NJ
- 11—THE SANDMAN  
(3) 244, Philadelphia, PA

- 12—BUH BUH RAY DUDLEY  
(-) 325, parts unknown
- 13—NEW JACK  
(-) 225, Philadelphia, PA
- 14—AXL ROTTEN  
(-) 302, Philadelphia, PA
- 15—SPIKE DUDLEY  
(-) 155, parts unknown

## INTERNATIONAL

- 1—MITSUOHARU MISAWA  
(1) 228, Ashikaga, Japan
- 2—TATSUMI FUJINAMI  
(-) 234, Oita, Japan
- 3—JUSHIN LIGER  
(3) 206, Hiroshima, Japan

- 4—KENSUKE SASAKI  
(2) 233, Tokyo, Japan
- 5—KEIJI MUTO  
(8) 245, Yamaguchi, Japan
- 6—UNIVERSO 2000  
(4) 215, parts unknown
- 7—KENTA KOBASHI  
(5) 261, Fukushima, Japan

- 8—TOSHIKI KAWADA  
(6) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
- 9—FRANZ SCHUMANN  
(9) 201, Graz, Austria
- 10—PERRO AGUAYO  
(7) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
- 11—ULTIMO DRAGON  
(11) 175, Mexico City, Mexico

- 12—SHINYA HASHIMOTO  
(10) 287, Gifu, Japan
- 13—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN  
(12) 245, Honolulu, HI
- 14—KIYOSHI TIMURA  
(13) 191, Yokohama, Japan
- 15—MR. GANNOSUKE  
(14) 223, Tokyo, Japan

## TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

- 1—BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES  
(1) WWF World tag team champions
- 2—LOD 2000  
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 3—MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO  
(3) IWGP tag team champions
- 4—THE GIANT & STING  
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 5—BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY  
(9) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

- 6—THE HEADBANGERS  
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 7—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS  
(-) NWA tag team champions
- 8—CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM  
(5) ECW tag team champions
- 9—TERRY FUNK & 2 COLD SCORPIO  
(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
- 10—AXL ROTTEN & MAHONEY  
(-) No. 2 contenders: ECW tag title

- 11—SABU & ROB VAN DAM  
(12) No. 3 contenders: ECW tag title
- 12—ROB CONWAY & NICK DINSMORE  
(-) Music City tag team champions
- 13—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS  
(13) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title
- 14—PUBLIC ENEMY  
(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 15—THE QUEBECERS  
(15) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

**For period ended April 27, 1998**

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA**  
(January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOSHI AKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAU**  
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA**  
(January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CYCLONE**  
(October 18, 1997; from Major Havoc; Elkin, NC)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: PHANTOM I**  
(April 11, 1998; from Gemini; Elkin, NC)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENERATION X**  
(February 14, 1998; from The Biker Outlaws; Elkin, NC)

**AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION U.S. CHAMPION: BRIAN DANZIG**  
(March 28, 1998; from Steve Niles; Bassett, VA)

**CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERICH SBRACCIA**  
(January 24, 1998; beat Vic Steamboat in tournament final; Ridgefield, CT)

**CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: MILLENNIUM**  
(October 18, 1997; from Joel Davis; Lawrence, MA)

**ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS**  
(November 30, 1997; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Monaca, PA)

**ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM**  
(December 6, 1997; from Doug Furnas & Phil Lafon; Philadelphia, PA)

**ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: ROB VAN DAM**  
(April 4, 1998; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Buffalo, NY)

**GREAT AMERICAN WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERMINATOR REX**  
(January 17, 1998; beat Chris Cannon; Red Oak, NC)

**INT'L PRO WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KING KONG BUNDY**  
(December 5, 1997; from Brick Bronsky; Jim Thorpe, PA)

**IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**  
(April 4, 1998; from Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

**IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO**  
(October 19, 1997; from Kensuke Sasaki & Kazuo Yamazaki; Kobe, Japan)

**IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER**  
(February 7, 1998; from Shinjiro Otani; Sapporo, Japan)

**MUSIC CITY WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE COLORADO KID**  
(April 4, 1998; won battle royal; Nashville, TN)

**MUSIC CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROB CONWAY & NICK DINSMORE**  
(April 4, 1998; won four-team match; Nashville, TN)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN SEVERN**  
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEVON STORM**  
(February 14, 1998; beat Reckless Youth in tournament final; Mount Holly, NJ)

**NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
(March 30, 1998; from The Headbangers; Albany, NY)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITSU HARU MISAWA**  
(January 20, 1997; from Kenta Kobashi; Osaka, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN**  
(August 22, 1997; from Yoshinari Ogawa; Tokyo, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOSHI AKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAU**  
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: RECKLESS YOUTH**  
(November 21, 1997; from Mike Quackenbush; Reading, PA)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIGER KHAN**  
(November 21, 1997; from Cheetah Master; Reading, PA)

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLUE THUNDER & J.R. RYDER**  
(January 16, 1998; from The Persian Prince & Dave Patera; Reading, PA)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BLACK ANGEL**  
(March 28, 1998; from Ripper; Kings Mountain, NC)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLAMING YOUTH**  
(April 25, 1998; from Strutter; Gaffney, SC)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLACK DIAMOND & MAN OF THUNDER**  
(April 25, 1998; from George South & Italian Stallion; Gaffney, SC)

**WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS JERICHO**  
(January 24, 1998; from Rey Misterio Jr.; Dayton, OH)

**WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: BOOKER T**  
(February 22, 1998; from Rick Martel; San Francisco, CA)

**WCW U.S. CHAMPION: BILL GOLDBERG**  
(April 20, 1998; from Raven; Colorado Springs, CO)

**WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HOLLYWOOD HOGAN**  
(April 20, 1998; from Randy Savage; Colorado Springs, CO)

**WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH**  
(February 22, 1998; from Rick & Scott Steiner; San Francisco, CA)

**WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**  
(March 16, 1998; from Owen Hart; Phoenix, AZ)

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ROCKY MAIVIA**  
(December 8, 1997; by forfeit from Steve Austin; Portland, ME)

**WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TAKA MICHINOKU**  
(December 7, 1997; beat Brian Christopher in tournament final; Springfield, MA)

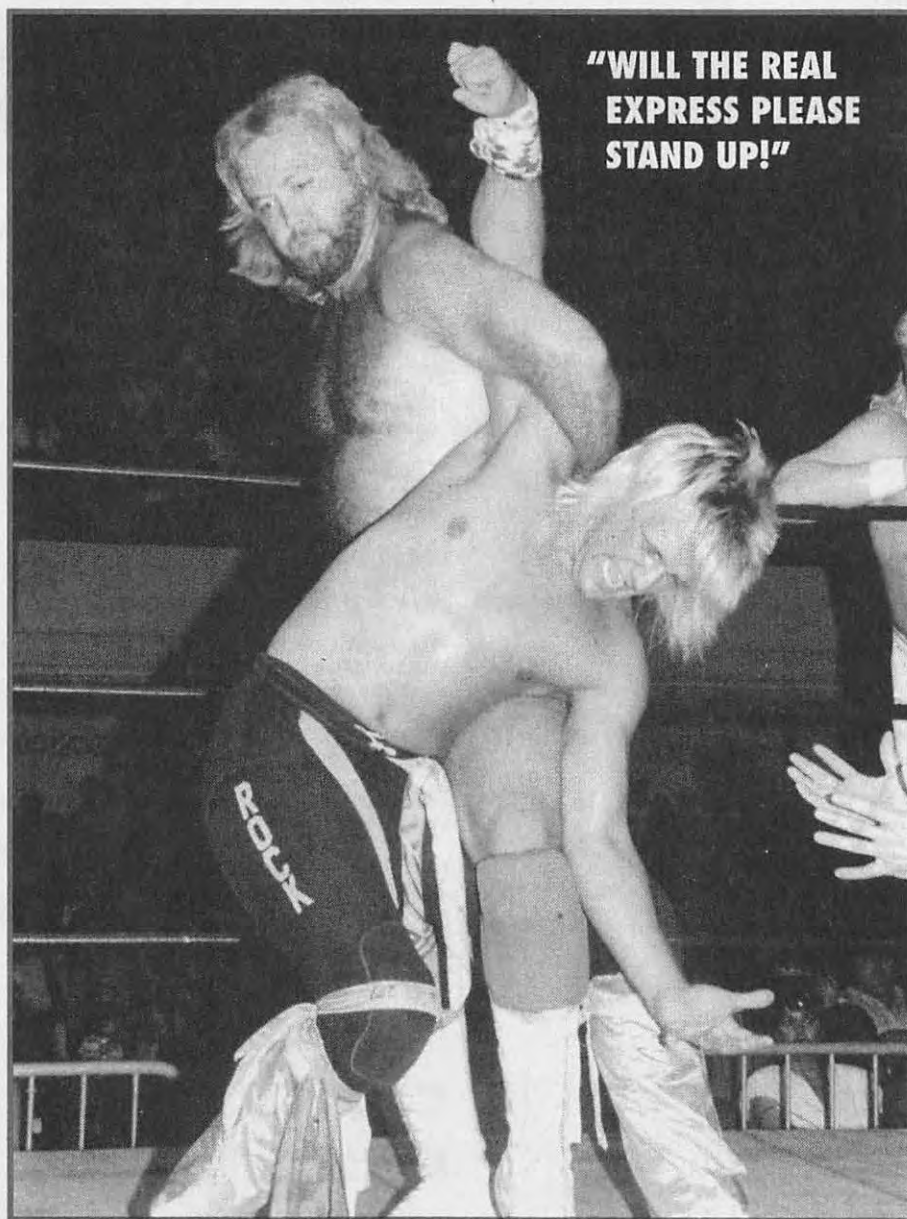
**WWF WORLD CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN**  
(March 29, 1998; from Shawn Michaels; Boston, MA)

**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**  
(March 30, 1998; beat Cactus Jack & Terry Funk; Albany, NY)



# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## This Month In Wrestling History

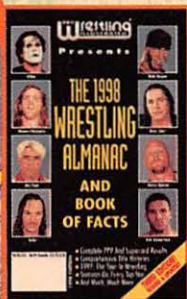
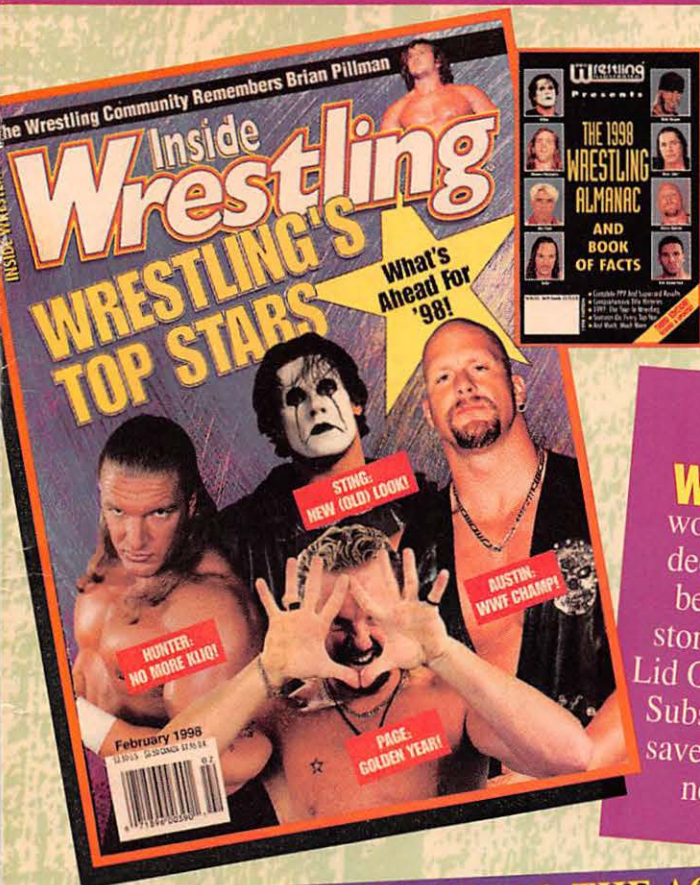


### **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS vs. THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS August 16, 1986**

Rick Morton never submitted to this Dennis Condrey abdominal stretch, and eventually he and partner Robert Gibson rallied to win the match—and the NWA World tag team title. But Condrey and Bobby Eaton are notorious sore losers, and The Midnight Express is still looking to avenge this loss ... 12 years later. Talk about holding a grudge! Of course, The Midnight Express that is currently feuding with The Rock 'n' Roll Express in the WWF is comprised of Bart Gunn and Bob Holly.



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